

As a mother, early childhood educator, and director, thank you for your work on Act 76, the Child Care Bill. It was a joy to be in the State House with you to witness its passing; it has already made a huge difference to our program!

Knowing that Readiness Payments were on the way, we were able to start the school year by paying our staff more than the usual cost of living increase.

We ended our first quarter in the black.

The 35% increase in CCFAP has escalated our monthly subsidy by \$5000!

This, coupled with the increased income eligibility in April, would mean that we could substantially increase wages - not with a bonus, but with *sustainable* wages reflective of the experience and quality our early childhood educators provide.

BUT we can only do this if we can count on the sustainability of Act 76. We are only beginning to see the changes this historic Act can provide for families and early childhood programs. Please reject the Governor's proposed cuts to this landmark child care funding. By delivering on the promise of Act 76, directors can keep our quality teachers and grow our programs to serve more Vermonters.

Beth Workman