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To: jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us

Cc: 'Mark Snelling' <mark@snellingcenter.org>

Subject: [External] Early Childhood Leadership Institute

[External]

Hello Senator Kitchel,

I want to thank you for your support of the Snelling Center by presenting to the Vermont Leadership Institute last week.

You have given of your time year after year to help our participants more fully understand Vermont's finances. We appreciate it.

The new group of Legislators seem to be making progress at figuring out the process. They have come a long way since orientation.

I wanted to share with you our effort this session: to grow more child care leaders. Specifically, the Snelling Center is requesting \$130,000 for our Early Childhood Leadership Institute (ELCI).

We hope this request will be included in the Policy Budget Memos to House Appropriations for House Education, Human Human Services and House Commerce and Economic Development.

Given the expected increases in funding for early childhood, it is critically important we have well trained leaders in the field.

ELCI was created in 2014 and funded by the Federal Early Learning Challenge - Race to the Top Grant for five years. This grant was run through the Agency of Human Services, Department of Children and Families' Child Development Division.

ECLI is an intensive six-month program that transforms participants' leadership skills and helps them understand the complex system of early childhood in Vermont.

Vermont needs more trained leaders to navigate the challenges as we transform our childcare system. Our program takes professionals in the field and gives them added skills to enhance their leadership ability, adds to the foundation of leaders in early childhood and links our graduates together to share innovative ideas for Vermont's children.

We have graduated over 126 Vermonters and they continue to tell us, ***"Our early childhood system in this state is only as good as the leaders who are in the field on a daily basis,"*** Kristen Martin, ECLI 2015.

I am planning on testifying next week at the budget hearing. Several others will also be testifying about the importance of the Early Childhood Leadership Institute in driving Vermont's early childhood efforts forward.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

Thank you

Mark

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