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# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Beth Bye  
Commissioner

**Testimony of Beth Bye, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood  
Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee  
S.B. 984 – An Act Accelerating the State Hiring Process  
Thursday, March 2, 2023**

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Good afternoon, Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, Senator Sampson, Representative Ackert, and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. I am Beth Bye, Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). I am submitting testimony concerning **S.B. 984 – An Act Accelerating the State Hiring Process**.

The OEC fully supports the Governor’s bill, S.B. 984 – An Act Accelerating the State Hiring Process. Our agency has experienced the same difficulties with recruiting and hiring staff as other state agencies – and the private sector as well. We fully agree with the issues outlined in the Governor’s fact sheet concerning S.B. 984:

*“Recruitment has been a challenge for a list of reasons: a competitive economy, the aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a shrinking workforce nationally. In addition, the state hiring process can be lengthy and cumbersome, resulting in applicants withdrawing from consideration before recruitments have even concluded to take more quickly offered positions in the private sector.”*

The Governor offers rational and practical solutions that reduce statutorily mandated timelines and increase decision-making capability for agency commissioners. These proposals are intended to reduce the amount of time it takes to fill a vacant position and strengthen our agency’s staffing capacity, areas of critical expertise, workload capacity, and ability to be responsive to our constituents and the public at large. This bill is critical to supporting agencies in their efforts to sufficiently staff to be efficient, productive, and serve as responsible state stewards to our citizens.

Thank you for your time and attention. The OEC is committed to work together—with legislators, the executive branch, providers, advocates, and parents—to better serve our families with young children.

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### ***About the OEC***

Phone: (860) 500-4412 · Fax: (860) 326-0554  
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 301  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
[www.ct.gov/oec](http://www.ct.gov/oec)  
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*The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) advances a two-generation family-centered approach in our pursuit of optimal health, safety and learning outcomes for young children. Through our core programs, we support infant and toddler care, preschool, after-school care, child care and youth camp licensing, home visiting, and early intervention to address developmental delays. The OEC is working toward better coordinated, cost-effective services that support Connecticut's youngest children and families.*