

Dear Senators:

*I am a Vermont early childhood special educator and I support S.119 and urge you to pass this bill. I participated in the workforce outreach that led to our recommendations for becoming a recognized profession with licenses to practice. The recommendations of the OPR align with our work.*

*Vermont has invested in the resources early childhood educators need before creating a profession, including scholarships, grants, and the historic investment of Act 76. We understand that with public investment comes accountability. Because early childhood educators led this work, we made sure our recommendations included supports and paths into the profession for every one of our colleagues.*

*However, not every member of our workforce has been involved or is aware of this proposal, and there is a lot of misinformation circulating. This is causing fear among people who have not yet heard about how the future system created by S.119 supports them. I want to reinforce for you that S.119 supports every member of our current workforce, as well as our future workforce, and our system has the necessary supports in place to ensure that no one is left behind. More than anything, this bill is about creating a system that will lead to best outcomes for children. I am proud to support it and I urge you to pass the bill.*

*Sincerely, George K. Hambleotn, PhD*