



CITY OF EASTHAMPTON
Mayor Nicole LaChapelle

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May 29, 2019

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Warren
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 317,
Washington, DC 20510

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL


Dear Senator Warren:

In my capacity as Mayor of Easthampton, I write today in strong support of your Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act. Regardless of income or family structure, all children fare better when exposed to high – interest lessons and activities. Due to the fundamental economic challenge of scarcity, early education programming is inconsistent across Western Massachusetts. Current child care programs are challenged to provide curriculum and professional development informed by best practice and research. Childcare options are based on a child's zip code and resulting funding stream for daycare dictate what the child's day looks like regardless of need. Child care access should be universal to address all students and their family's needs consistently.

We are all served well when the bright eyes of our youngest residents remain bright as they begin their education. Your proposal lifts and creates quality occupational and training for childcare workers. This focus gives our youngest residents the developmental support they need and deserve to thrive. We desperately need good quality jobs that erase economic barriers based on the educational setting a person chooses to work. The connection of child care workers' pay to similarly credentialed public school educators opens more professionals and their families to a more stable economic future.

The commitment to local and federal partnership serves for a firm foundation, building a more trusting relationship between Easthampton and Washington DC. If nothing else, policy and funding best serve the public good when informed by real-time information from the classroom and Main Street across our Commonwealth.

Very truly yours,



Nicole LaChapelle
Mayor of Easthampton