



Connecticut  
Early Childhood  
Alliance

December 7, 2011

The Honorable George Jepsen  
Attorney General  
State of Connecticut  
55 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Attorney General Jepsen,

We write to express our strong objections to the State's "Motion for Protective Order re Preschool" that was recently filed in the CCJEF v. Rell school finance lawsuit. The motion seeks to exclude from the suit all children attending preschool programs approved and funded by the state, even those who attend programs that are integral components of public school districts. For the sake of Connecticut's children, and the successful and productive adult lives we want and need all our children to realize, we urge you to withdraw this motion.

By removing preschool children from the case, the motion refutes decades of well-established education research that has resoundingly identified quality early childhood education programs as essential elements in providing an adequate and equitable education. These programs have been proven effective - and highly cost-effective as a public investment - in study after study. Not only do early childhood education programs significantly lessen the preparation gap for disadvantaged children as they enter kindergarten, but the benefits of quality early childhood education have been found to endure throughout the public school years and well into adulthood. These benefits are personal to the children who attended such programs and also societal, reaping continuing benefits to the state and local communities in which they choose to live and work.

The motion filed by your office, however, would negate this vast body of research and the years of effort by the State of Connecticut to create and fund early childhood education programs, many in our public schools. The motion, in essence, would deny all children below kindergarten age their constitutional rights to an adequate and equitable education pursuant to the March 2010 Connecticut Supreme Court decision in CCJEF v. Rell.

Signed,  
Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance  
The Alliance for Bloomfield's Children  
All Our Kin, Inc., New Haven  
Beatrice Fox Auerbach Early Childhood Center, West Hartford  
Best Beginnings, Clinton's Preschool Initiative

Bloomfield Early Learning Center  
Branford Early Learning Center  
Bridgeport Alliance for Young Children  
Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition  
Bridgeport YMCA  
Center for Children's Advocacy, Bridgeport  
The Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County, Inc.  
Cesar Batalla Family Resource Center, Bridgeport  
Chaplin CREW (Children's Readiness, Education and Wellness)  
Childcare Learning Centers, Stamford  
Children First Norwich/School Readiness Council  
The Children's Center of New Milford  
Child Works Preschool, New London  
Collaborative of Colchester's Children  
Community Renewal Team  
Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children  
Connecticut Association for Human Services  
Connecticut Family Resource Center Alliance  
Connecticut Head Start Association  
Connecticut Parent Power  
Connecticut Voices for Children  
Conversations About Education  
Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis, Inc., New Haven  
Cromwell Early Childhood/School Readiness Council  
CT Coalition for Child Development Education  
Danbury Children First  
Danbury's Promise for Children Partnership  
Derby Day Care  
The Diaper Bank, New Haven  
Early Reading First, Catholic Charities  
Edith B. Jackson Child Care Program, New Haven  
Education Connection, Litchfield & Danbury  
Family Leadership Action Council  
Future Foundations Child Care Center, Torrington  
Gateway Community College Early Learning Center  
Gessell Institute of Child Development  
Good Shepherd and East Shore Child Development Centers, Milford  
Guilford Center for Children  
Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council  
Hartford Neighborhood Center  
Jefferson Family Resource Center, New Britain  
Kent School Early Learning Center  
Knight Hall School and Child Care Center, Inc., West Hartford  
LISC/Children's Investment Partnership, Hartford  
Mansfield Discovery Depot  
Meriden Children First

Meriden School Readiness Council  
Middlesex Coalition for Children  
Middletown School Readiness Council  
Misty Morning Children's Center, Newtown  
New Britain Early Childhood Collaborative  
New Haven Association for the Education of Young Children  
New Haven Early Childhood Council  
Norwalk Early Childhood Council  
Plymouth Early Childhood Council  
Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership, Bridgeport  
Riverfront Children's Center, Groton  
Shelton School Readiness Council  
Sleeping Giant Day Care, Inc., Hamden  
Smalley Family Resource Center, New Britain  
Stafford Early Education Council  
State Funded Child Development Center Director's Forum  
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.  
Torrington Child Care Center Inc.  
Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative  
Trinity College Community Child Care Center, Hartford  
Vernon School Readiness Council  
Wallingford Community Day Care Center, Inc.  
West Haven Head Start  
Westville Community Nursery School, Inc., New Haven  
Wethersfield Early Readiness Council  
Women & Families Center, Meriden  
Women's League Inc. Child Development Center, Hartford

State Representative Matthew Ritter, Hartford  
Elizabeth Morgan, Middletown  
Jane Norgren, Bridgeport  
Karen L. Thompson, Naugatuck  
Nancy Carrillo, New Haven  
Rachael Funk, Ashford  
Marci Neuffer, Newington  
Julie Bossenberry, North Haven  
Julio Reinoso, Bridgeport  
Gladys Lazurek, Derby  
Cheryl Kloczko, Torrington  
Terry Miner, Plainfield  
Kim Lawther Jackson, Clinton  
Jackie Heftman, Stamford  
Andrea Sambrook, New Haven  
Emily Schemm, Kent  
Rhonda C. Wirth, West Hartford  
Sandra Frizzell, Chaplin

Jeffrey Daniels, West Hartford  
Elizabeth C. Brown, Waterbury  
Wendy Lecker, Stamford  
Samantha Dynowski, West Hartford  
Linda Stuhlman, Clinton  
Kimberly Dole, Groton  
Susan Corrice, Groton  
Debbie Plourde, Meriden  
Eileen Costello, Brookfield  
Nilda Aponte, New Haven  
Khadijah Abdul-Salaam  
Alden Pane, Hartford  
Sandy Pliskin, Pomfret  
Ruthann Horvay, Winsted  
Barbara Tacchi, Bristol  
Margaret Holmberg, Quaker Hill  
Sally Young, Canton  
Mary Burnham, Sandy Hook  
Dr. Leota Tucker, New Haven  
Debra Cohen, Wethersfield  
Carroll Possick, New Haven  
Janet Alfano, New Haven  
Karen Orphanos, Darien  
Evelyn Gorsline-Flamm, New Haven  
Kim Kiernan, Naugatuck  
Judith G. Goldfarb, Higganum  
Judith Drenzek, West Haven  
Robin Puchala, New Britain  
Tina Peloso-Ulreich, Bridgeport  
Ida Gilbert-Washington, Hartford  
Gail Corbett, New Haven  
Rachel Smolenski, New London  
Fredrick Jackson, Co-Chair, Bridgeport Alliance for Young Children, Bridgeport School  
Readiness Council  
Kathryn Hale, South Windsor  
Angela Holmes, Waterbury  
Daniel Becce, West Hartford  
Taylor Duckworth, Meriden  
Gail Nolan, Bloomfield  
Nancy Polk, Woodbridge  
Patricia Albers, Manchester  
Gail Nolan, Bloomfield  
Lianne Leedom, MD  
Kristen Stoeke, Winsted  
Debbie Muhlbaier, Winsted  
Mary Cecchinato, East Canaan

Kathleen H. Queen, Cheshire  
Edie Reichard, Milford  
Anne Jerome, New London  
Jennifer Pane, Danbury  
Jessica Ciparelli, South Windsor  
Darlene C. Ragozzine, Woodbridge  
Susan C. Marinelli, Plainville  
Debbie L. Benoit, Putnam  
Alice Torres, Middletown  
Vivian J. Carlson, PhD, St. Joseph's College, West Hartford  
Deborah Lord, Bloomfield