

State of Connecticut

GEORGE C. JEPSEN
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Hartford
December 7, 2011

Ms. Maggie Adair
Executive Director
Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance
110 Bartholomew Avenue, Suite 4030
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Ms. Adair:

Thank you for your letter concerning my Office's motion in *CCJEF v. Rell*. I appreciate the concerns raised by you and the other organizations and individuals who signed in support.

I have long supported providing effective early intervention and other measures to promote educational success.

My office, on behalf of the State, has not questioned the potential benefits of pre-school education or the wisdom of providing such services to Connecticut children as a matter of public policy.

Rather, we have filed a motion asking the Court to decide -- as a legal, not policy matter -- whether the Connecticut constitution's guarantee of "free public elementary and secondary schools" was intended to encompass pre-school services.

Not to raise this important legal issue would be irresponsible and a disservice to the state of Connecticut and its people.

Even if successful, however, our motion would not and could not prevent the legislature or municipalities from providing pre-school services as a matter of public policy.

Please share my response with all those who signed on in support of your letter and thank you all for your efforts on behalf of Connecticut's young children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Jepsen".

George Jepsen

GJ/pas