



Early Learning Fellows Legislative Corner

August 2017

Home Visiting Services Pilot Program



Fifth year (2016) NCSL Early Learning Fellow **Councilmember Brianne Nadeau** (D-D.C.) sponsored a home visiting bill that continues to work through the D.C. Council. [B 350](#), introduced on June 27, aims to improve the quality of early childhood health and welfare and to expand access to home visiting services.

The bill requires that the deputy mayor for health and human services conduct a feasibility study to assess the ability of a pay-for-success (sometimes known as social impact bonds) model to improve, expand, and sustain home visiting programs. If passed, the bill would then implement a 10-year pilot program to use pay-for-success contracts for home visiting services and would require annual reporting on home visiting services and it establishes the Help Me Grow program District-wide.

“We need to be doing more to help children get a strong start in life,” said Nadeau. “Home visiting programs are an effective, evidence-based way to close the achievement gap and increase the health, education, public safety and welfare of young families. My time as an NCSL Early Learning Fellow helped me gain deeper insight into home visiting programs and resulted in a stronger bill, which ultimately helps kids in the District get the resources they need to succeed.”

Creating an Early Childhood Certification



Third year (2014) NCSL Early Learning Fellows **Representative Dan Huberty** (R-Tex.) sponsored [HB 2039](#) which creates an early childhood certification to teach students in prekindergarten through third grade. The bill passed with bipartisan support and was signed into law. While the certification will not be mandatory, the certification will include both knowledge and skills based courses on educating younger learners. Courses

Early Learning Fellows engage with NCSL in other ways

Fifth year (2016) NCSL Early Learning Fellows **Senator Brice Wiggins** (R-Miss.) participated as a legislative respondent during a webinar *State Preschool Programs: Annual Yearbook Update* on Thursday, July 20.

Sixth year (2017) NCSL Early Learning Fellow **Representative Tom Holmes** (R-S.D.) and fourth year (2015) NCSL Early Learning Fellow **Representative Susan Lontine** (D-Colo.) provided legislative examples on a webinar *Improving Systems of Care for Children and Youth* which focused on autism on Thursday, July 26.

Third year (2014) NCSL Early Learning Fellow **Senator Bo Watson** (R-Tenn.) presented at the Legislative Summit during a session about Adverse Childhood Experiences on Monday, Aug. 7 in Boston.

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include managing a classroom; strategies for teaching reading, writing and numeracy; and focusing on building social, emotional, and academic skills in small groups.

Huberty shared the following insight when asked about HB 2039. “During the 84th Legislative Session in 2015, the legislature passed House Bill 4, which recognized the need for a larger focus on early education by providing extra funding for high quality prekindergarten programs. Under current law and rule, teachers are certified from early education all the way through sixth grade. I think it's extremely clear that educating a student in kindergarten and educating a student in sixth grade require different skill sets from an educator in the classroom. This new certificate will create high quality educators that are trained to educate students from early education to third grade.”

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