

Early Childhood Advisory Council
Early Childhood Advisory Council Financing Workgroup
Testimony before the Sunset Review Committee
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Chairman Jordan, Vice Chair Brown, and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you for providing the opportunity to testify today concerning the Early Childhood Advisory Council and The Early Childhood Advisory Council Financing Workgroup. I am Angel Rhodes, the Early Education and Development Officer in the Governor's Office.

The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) is an advisory council to the Governor's Office with the purpose of providing input and guidance, as requested, on issues that have an impact on early childhood policy and programs. All members of the ECAC are appointed by the Governor.

There are currently 24 members on the ECAC. Those members represent the perspectives of early childhood foundations, advocates, providers, parent and family groups, state and local board representatives, higher education, social service agencies, health care, unions, and businesses.

The ECAC is set up in federal statute as part of the Head Start Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 9837b). At the direction of the Governor's Early Childhood and Education and Development Officer and the ECAC Chair, the ECAC convenes monthly to share progress on the State's overall goals. Members are not compensated nor reimbursed for their expenses on ECAC .

ECAC members also lend their expertise to the Early Learning Challenge Grant Project, which is being used to improve the quality of programs that serve high-needs children. Several work teams have been established to help advise with this work, including the Early Childhood Advisory Council Financing Workgroup.

Due to the work load involved with the federal Early Learning Challenge Grant Program, one staff member provides administrative and logistical support that accounts for approximately 24 work-hours per month. This staff member is currently funded by the grant that will expire December 31, 2016. Once the grant expires, the ECAC will continue as a requirement of the Head Start Act of 2007 as well as an advisory group on all early childhood priorities. We will continue to staff the ECAC using existing resources.

We respectfully request reauthorization of the ECAC. The Early Childhood Advisory Council Financing Workgroup, however, does not need reauthorization as it is a part of the Early Learning Challenge Grant and will cease to exist when the grant expires on December 31, 2016. It is not a free-standing entity and does not exist in statute.

Thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.