

Name/Organization	Topic/Comments
Heather Kortenkaemper	<p>COVID-19 Testing in Childcare</p> <p>When will the test and stay requirements for early education be lifted? Most of these kids have had covid at this point and have done quite well. Public schools are no longer requiring testing or masks. These policies are now outdated and needlessly impacting/harming our youngest citizens. Additionally, even if these kids get it again, they will get a milder case as their immune system has been exposed and the virus has become weaker.</p>
Filomena Next Step Nursery and Preschool	<p>Public Preschool Programs</p> <p>My name is Filomena I am from Next Step Nursery and Preschool located in Springfield Mass. As the state informed us that public Preschool will be offered throughout our cities, what does that mean for private family childcare and Daycare, large group and Centers? Staff is getting nervous that we will not have enrollment since Public Preschools are going to be available to parents. How will this affect us? What if any support or guarantees will we have?</p>
Krista Landsman Luminous Learners	<p>C3 Grants – Tax Status</p> <p>I think that stabilization grants are great. I wonder has there been any consideration given to allowing early childhood educators tax exemptions? If, for example, early childhood educators who make under \$55,000 can be exempt from state taxes, this will increase their income which goes into their pockets.</p>
Megan Coslick	<p>COVID-19 Testing in Childcare</p> <p>I am writing with a comment regarding the test and stay program. As I understand it, test and stay is only available to those whose exposures occur at a child care program, not those whose exposures come from a sibling. This makes no scientific sense. An exposure is an exposure and indeed, during the week, my children are around their classmates much more than they are around their siblings. While I understand that testing supplies may still be limited enough that testing kits cannot be supplied from the centers to parents in these situations, parents should have the option of providing their own. \$10/test is well worth it to maintain childcare. Parents are trusted to provide and perform tests in many other circumstances, such as leaving isolation and quarantine, and test and stay should be no exception. Many of us have children who remain too young to be vaccinated, and test and stay remains the only viable path to avoiding significant disruptions in care. It should be available regardless of the source of exposure. Making it otherwise encourages parents to stay silent about out of school exposures.</p>