

# The Connecticut General Assembly

## House Democrats



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Rep. Rosati Randall Promotes Early Childhood Issues**

State Representative **Christine Rosati Randall** (D-Killingly, Plainfield) was a featured speaker at a panel at the State Capitol complex on the importance of local early childhood councils (LECCs).

The panel, hosted by a coalition of LECCs, convened to bring awareness to the important work of the LECCs and focused on issues affecting local councils. A vibrant panel discussion was the highlight of the event where legislators, coordinators and parents talked about the role LECCs played in their everyday lives. LECCs in over 80 communities across Connecticut are the source in their cities and towns for early childhood coordination, outreach, programs and services for children and families.

The [Northeast Early Childhood Council](#) (NECC) is the local early childhood council working on behalf of young children and families in Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam and Sterling.

“LECCs work with their local community partners to ensure all young children are healthy, safe and successful learners. We bring together all key stakeholders who play a crucial role in the safety, mental and physical development and education of our children,” Kristine Cicchetti, Regional Director of NECC, said. “Rep. Randall provides a strong voice at the Capitol for local early childhood councils and young children.”

The NECC is the only regional early childhood council in the state. Its regional approach allows the NECC to provide services that may not be typically available to a single small town.

“One example is the NECC’s work with the Lions Club to increase access to vision screenings.” Rep. Randall said. “The Lions Club had the equipment and ability to provide

the screenings and the NECC was able to provide outreach and connect the Lions Club with the families of children who may have otherwise fallen through the cracks.”

The NECC in collaboration with Lions Clubs International, Killingly Public Schools and Sterling Public Schools screened over 1,400 school children for vision problems. The [CT Lions KidSight Program](#) is a free service funded by the [CT Lions Eye Research Foundation](#).

“Early childhood councils make a difference,” Rep. Randall said. “These are the critical foundation years for a child’s education, health and well-being. The work of the LECCs yield savings through coordination, sharing resources and working to provide children and families with the supports necessary to be successful.

In 2015, Rep. Randall introduced the original bill that became state law that paved the way for local early childhood councils to receive funding through the state Office of Early Childhood. Christine received the Children’s Champion Award through the CT Early Childhood Alliance for her work on behalf of children.