

Legislative Testimony in Support of SB 2352

Provided to: House Education Committee

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By: Janet Bassingthwaite

As an early childhood specialist with experience working with at-risk populations through early intervention programs such as Right Track, Early Intervention services, Early Childhood Special Education, Head Start/Early Head Start, and child care programs I urge you to support SB 2352.

Research in mother-child connections has overwhelmingly shown the importance of this time for the mother and the child's development. Being able to have guidance on parenting in a safe and structured environment while being provided coaching on establishing nurturing interactions, reading cues, meeting needs, creating routines, and offering developmentally appropriate experiences will have significant social, psychological, and economic benefits in the long game.

Important research-based considerations:

- Promoting healthy child development and secure attachment- Byrne, Goshin, and Joestl (2010)
- Reducing recidivism and enhancing rehabilitation- Goshin & Byrne (2009)
- Improving maternal mental health of mothers, in turn provides better outcomes for the child.- Carlson (2001)
- Cost-effective approach as it takes the pressure off the foster care system- Moran, Jolley, and Wright (2016)

I support SB 2352 and encourage you to do the same.

Janet Bassingthwaite