

Submitter: Carly Policha

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2717

My son has been going to an outdoor preschool for the past 2 years. This has been the most wonderful experience I could imagine for him. He has learned to be so creative, finding ways to use his imagination to transform sticks, cones or rocks into his play. He has developed amazing coordination and skill in climbing and balance. He is able to be comfortable in situations that are often considered uncomfortable like being out in the rain all day long. He stays cozy and warm, dressed for the weather. He never complains about being outside and often does not want to come inside after his school day. He has become an astute observer of the natural world. He tells me the birds, insects or animals he sees, and notices when the flowers are starting to bloom. He has respect and reverence for nature. These experiences and skills will stay with him as he grows and help him be patient, creative, compassionate and grounded. I would love to see more children be able to experience the benefits and magic of outdoor education.