



*Written Testimony before the  
Select Committee on Children  
February 8, 2011*

**In Opposition to H.B. No. 5293 AN ACT EXTENDING THE "CARE 4 KIDS" PROGRAM TO FAMILIES WITH A PARENT WHO IS ACTIVELY SEEKING EMPLOYMENT.**

H.B. 5293 expands eligibility in the Care 4 Kids (C4K) program to include individuals "*actively seeking employment.*"

The department opposes this bill because the C4K program is a capped state appropriation and would not be able to sustain the demand.

Expanding coverage to an entirely new group of unemployed individuals would have a significant fiscal impact on the C4K program. The C4K program is a capped state appropriation and is not an entitlement program. The program has closed intake to various eligible populations twice over the last two years due to insufficient funds. Expanding eligibility in this manner would open the program to a new population that would divert funds currently supporting working parents and force the program to close.

For this reason, the department must oppose H.B. No. 5293, even though we recognize that it is well-intentioned.