



**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

March 6, 2012

Testimony on the following bill:

**Raised Bill SB 273: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM**

Submitted by: David Downes, Vice President, Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education and Director of Adult and Continuing Education, West Hartford Public Schools

*The following testimony is submitted on behalf of CAACE, the Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education, a statewide professional organization representing providers of mandated adult education.*

Senator Gerrantana, Representative Urban and members of the Select Committee on Children:

CAACE supports bill 273, with its intention to broaden the umbrella of the Care4Kids program to cover young parents who attend programs provided by adult education, including GED preparation classes and other diploma-oriented programs. A little over 200 individuals under the age of eighteen who enrolled in adult education in 2010-11 were parents, and many of those students had significant financial needs. Child care services promote the persistence of these students to attain a high school diploma or its equivalent, and thereby increase their chances to obtain better jobs and begin a road toward self-sufficiency. Older parents who take a maternity leave and who don't yet have a high school diploma would also find it easier to pursue their education more readily with the services that Care4Kids coverage could provide, with the similar benefits of their being able to obtain a better job with a high school completion credential.

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For the sake of accuracy, the term "general equivalency diploma program" mentioned in paragraph (1) of the bill should be changed to "general educational development test preparation program."