

Education Committee
Public Testimony
March 2, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 112
AN ACT PROVIDING CHILD CARE FOR ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS ENROLLED IN
APPROVED HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann; Vice Chairs Senator Winfield, Representative Sanchez; Ranking Members Senator Boucher, Representative Lavielle; and esteemed members of the Committee.

My name is Cassidy Erwin I am currently interning here as well as attending college, working two menial wage jobs, and I am also a mother. I am in full support of this bill because it pertains to individuals and families such as myself. I have worked so hard to be where I am today and education is an imperative piece to my own success. I am determined, diligent, and intelligent and I do not want to spend my life working 70 hours a week and still not being able to support myself and my child. Without childcare coverage for parents looking to pull themselves out of poverty the concept of attending school is basically impossible. Currently as policies stand further education is not attainable for most parents. Although one may think this may be a costly endeavor I disagree. The money we will save long term on welfare programs will heavily outweigh the cost of child care services for these individuals. Also once the child is old enough to attend school, less funding will be needed. No funding will need to be appropriated to these families while the child is in school, it would only pertain to after school hours. Ultimately the goal would be for parents to attend college and no longer have to be dependent on the state. I believe in the long term it will save our state millions and preserve our families in unison. I know funding is limited, but I think it's time to start investing in our residents. The success of the people reflects everyone in this building. Education is a stepping stone to better paying jobs. If we want to generate revenue for our state effectively it is important to educate our parents in the community and get them exposed to job advancements. We need to create a path for success, especially for low income families and this is key to doing just that. I sincerely hope you all take the time to weigh the true value of this program to our community. It's time to knock down the barriers for advancement for families and this is the perfect place to start.

Thank you for your time and understanding on this sensitive matter.

Cassidy