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March 1, 2016

C/O Education Review Committee Staff
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Attention: Senators Richard Blumenthal, John Larson
and Chris Murphy

Dear Senators:

My name is Deborah Dondzik and I am the Nurturing Families Network (NFN) Clinical Supervisor at Families in Crisis, Inc.

I am writing you to ask that you carefully consider the benefits of supporting Bill No. 112, *An Act Providing Child Care for Assistance Recipients Enrolled in Approved Higher Education Programs*.

I have worked with many families across Connecticut. I have had the privilege to meet hard-working individuals and families who have shared with me their hopes and dreams. Some of those with whom I work with struggle just to obtain a GED because there is not someone who they can consistently depend upon to care for their child. Still, others are in need of ESL classes. Then, too, many families who try to rise above the need for temporary assistance have found it difficult to search for employment or to attend a job interview because of the lack of safe and affordable child care.

The reason is, to receive a child-care subsidy through Care for Kids you must be employed. This has left many households, especially single mothers to remain unemployed, underemployed and on assistance that is not truly *temporary*. It is time for a change in the legislation. Not only will this help families to reach self-reliance, it will also offer more children an opportunity to attend quality early education programming.

I appreciate your voices on behalf of children and their families. What a positive impact this will have to help families get out from under poverty!

Thank you for your consideration of my letter. I look forward to hearing the outcome.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Dondzik, M. Ed.
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