

March 1, 2016

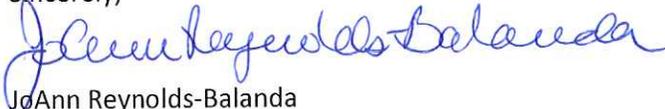
Good day,

I am writing to support a bill being heard this week, Bill No. 112, An Act Providing Child Care for Assistance Recipients Enrolled in Approved Higher Education Programs. This bill addresses one of the concerns raised by many families that they are not able to get out from under poverty as they cannot access child care to take courses to improve their employment options.

Child care benefits are only open to those receiving cash assistance under the temporary family assistance program from the Department of Social Services, if they are working. It is recounted by many parents, that though they strive to move up the ladder, policies for family supports such as child care are not available for improving one's economic status through education. We can and should do better to support families who want to do better for their children by stabilizing their household income.

Please consider supporting and passing this bill – it is critical to the work we are all trying to achieve with better outcomes for families as the goal.

Sincerely,



JoAnn Reynolds-Balanda
Vice President of Community Impact
United Way of Greater Waterbury