



## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE GAYLE MULLIGAN**  
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**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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 Gayle Mulligan and I proudly represent the 55<sup>th</sup> district, serving the wonderful towns of Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 112.

I believe this bill is an imperative piece of legislation which is crucial to the success of our state and families. Without the ability to further education, these individuals will be dependent on state services. As the law currently stands child care is only accessible to working parents and not to non-working parents who are in school. Due to this, many parents find themselves further trapped in low income, menial wage jobs and unable to advance out of poverty. But upon completion of further education, these families will be able to access better paying jobs and not need to depend so heavily on the state for services. I contend this will save the state money in the long term. By expanding this program we will be able to create situations in which our fellow citizens can stand on their own and not be dependent on welfare services.

I am very supportive of the enactment of this bill and do believe it is stepping stone to improving our state and families as a whole. The success of our residents is a reflection of our accomplishments as a state. This bill will be a part of that movement to deal with the real issues facing our community and to find and implement viable solutions. Thank you for taking the time to hear me on this very important matter.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gayle Mulligan".

Gayle Mulligan  
State Representative, 55th District