



**Written Testimony of  
Scott D. Jackson, Commissioner  
Department of Labor  
Education Committee  
March 15, 2016**

Good Afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, Senator Boucher, Representative Lavielle and members of the Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding **Senate Bill 112 AN ACT PROVIDING CHILD CARE FOR ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS ENROLLED IN APPROVED HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS**. My name is Scott Jackson and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

This proposed bill seeks to promote employability of persons who are receiving temporary family assistance by providing child care subsidies for those enrolled in an approved higher education program. The Department of Labor (DOL) is responsible for the administration of employment services to recipients of temporary family assistance under the employment services program administered by the Department of Social Services.

This bill seeks to add attendance at a 2 or 4-year college in pursuit of a degree as a work activity for Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) recipients. These TFA recipients would be eligible for a child care subsidy by adding this category. The child care subsidy is administered by the Office of Early Childhood.

However, DOL's Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) program already considers 2 and 4-year degree programs as an approved work activity. Section # 17b-112j of the Connecticut General Statutes specifies that the JFES program permit and encourage parents to seek education and training and the program shall approve the pursuit of a degree as an approved work activity. Therefore, DOL has approved the pursuit of an activity as a work activity on an individualized basis for several years. DOL understands that there is a need for child care under TFA and DOL's approval of the pursuit of higher education as an approved work activity allows a TFA recipient to seek a child care subsidy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.