

Middlesex Coalition for Children

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Testimony from Izzi Greenberg, Director, Middlesex Coalition for Children

[S.B. No. 934](#) (RAISED) EDUCATION. 'AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY IN THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM TO PARENTS ENROLLED IN OTHER TYPES OF SCHOOL

Good afternoon Sen. McCrory, Rep. Sanchez, and members of the Education Committee,

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide testimony on this and the other early childhood bills before the committee today. I run the Middlesex Coalition for Children, which works to improve outcomes for children and their families in Middletown and Middlesex County. Our coalition includes a wide range of families, schools, programs, and early care and education programs.

I'm submitting testimony on [S.B. No. 934](#) (RAISED) EDUCATION. 'AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY IN THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM TO PARENTS ENROLLED IN OTHER TYPES OF SCHOOL in addition to high school, and require advance notice of expanded program eligibility.

Middletown has many parents enrolled in English Learning, GED, job training, and Higher Education. Over the years I've worked with parents trying to get better jobs, trying to get off state assistance, and the one largest barrier is that Care4Kids won't help them pay for childcare while they are in an educational environment. This policy is self-defeating. The state needs a more educated workforce. It needs parents with better jobs. Over the next 10 years, an estimated 70 percent of Connecticut jobs will require postsecondary education or specialized training.

More to know:

- Currently 8.5% of adults 18-64 do not have a high school degree/GED, and only 26.3% have only a high school degree.
- Helping parents looking to access educational opportunities will be beneficial for the growing needs of the Connecticut workforce.
- In order for parents and working families to take advantage of English Learning, GED completion, job training, college courses, and other educational opportunities, they must have access to high-quality and consistent child care to help children thrive.
- When children can receive high-quality, consistent care, their parents can participate fully in the English Learning, GED completion, job training, or college courses needed to secure family sustaining wages and employment. As 28 states allow parents to receive child care assistance while earning up to a bachelor's degree, Connecticut must take steps to help non-TANF recipient parents who are working to complete a high school degree, GED, English learning, job training program or college to access Care4Kids.

Parents need this expansion to move their families forward.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective,



Izzi Greenberg
Executive Director

Improving the lives of children in Middletown and Middlesex County.