

Testimony regarding: S.B. No. 934 AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY IN THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM TO PARENTS ENROLLED IN OTHER TYPES OF SCHOOL

Submitted By: Sahida Kahnom

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

My name is Sahida Kahnom, and I live in Middletown.

I am honored to be presenting testimony on the issue of S.B. No. 934 AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY IN THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM TO PARENTS ENROLLED IN OTHER TYPES OF SCHOOL.

I am a parent of two daughters, one in preschool, one that is 13 months old. I moved to America from Bangladesh in 2014. I didn't finish high school in Bangladesh and am pursuing education in America. I graduated from ESL and GED at Even Start in Middletown. I am currently enrolled in Middlesex Community College at night, because that is when I can get childcare. I would be enrolled full time if I could go during the day but could only do that if I could access Care4Kids. It is important to me to spend time with my daughter, so regular care would be helpful.

My goal is to become an early childhood educator. I love kids and am currently enrolled in a paraprofessional program for a certificate. It's very hard to get my kids to care and meet my educational goals. Even Start has supported me and my family to be able to improve myself and my family.

This is an issue that will impact the educational well-being and future of Connecticut's young children and requires immediate action. If this bill passes, there will be more educated people which will lead to better job opportunities. Jobs are asking for degrees, and if you have them, you can have a better job. More education for me means my daughters succeed, as well.

Children thrive in childcare settings and I have seen this first hand. They are able to socialize and learn emotional development that they might not get from being alone at home.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify about S.B. No. 934 AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY IN THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM TO PARENTS ENROLLED IN OTHER TYPES OF SCHOOL.

Thank you for your consideration.