

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

Submitted By:
Melanie Vitelli

Good afternoon Sen. McCrory, Rep. Sanchez, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Melanie Vitelli, and I live in Hamden.

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.

This is an issue that is very important to me. I am a mother of 2 young children I know how expensive daycare payments are as well as how important it is to go back to school to further your career and increase your income in order to afford daycare and other basic needs. I have lost a job in the past and had to rely on state assistance and it's not easy. As a social worker and with my husband in the same field together we don't have a very large income but we are somehow just over the median. If the eligibility median were to increase it would be helpful to a lot of families who are struggling. Also by adding school to the job list this will help a lot of parents who need child care and don't have employment but are looking to further their career/education.

The problems that exist related to this issue is the parents who stay home with their kids aren't able to go out and look for jobs. If parents could be enrolled in school they would be contributing to bettering themselves and the community. Child care is always an issue. People don't have their kids in child care because it's unaffordable. This will also help prevent people from leaving their children with inappropriate caretakers as we see in the work that I do with children and their families.

This is an issue that will impact the educational well-being and future of Connecticut's young children, and requires immediate action. This policy change will help parents who struggle to make daycare payments. If parents could attend school and still utilize Care 4 Kids it would be beneficial for CT schools and also for employers once parents graduate. Parents could also maybe have a little more money to put into CT places to enjoy the time spent with their children and build our economy. CT is a very expensive state but people stay because they feel rooted here. If the eligibility median were to increase or parents could attend school while receiving Care 4 Kids it is a win, win for both CT and the parents that live here.

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.