

# Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-87

AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE OFFICE OF EARLY  
CHILDHOOD'S CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR VICTIMS OF

**Title:** DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

**Vote Date:** 2/27/2020

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/18/2020

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Committee on Children

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

To allow the Office of Early Childhood's child care subsidy program to be accessible to victims of domestic violence.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **Beth Bye, Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood**

The Office of Early Childhood fully appreciates the intent of the bill but is concerned about the bill as written. They are concerned that they do not have the expertise or resources to determine whether an individual is a victim of domestic abuse. There are also concerns about the fiscal impact to the agency.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Tara Clark; Women and Family Life Center**

Believes that passage of this bill would be instrumental in helping women across Connecticut who are in situations of leaving an abuser. The Care 4 Kids program has been an incredible resource for low income working women who are supporting their children. Yet, there are issues in gaining access to this program for one of our most vulnerable populations: women who are trying to leave abusive partners. This bill fixes that.

### **Steven Hernandez; Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity**

Supports the passage of this legislation as it would allow victims of domestic abuse receive the financial assistance they need to leave an abusive situation. Allowing access to this fund removes a cost

**Susie DiVietro, PHD; Connecticut Children's Medical Center**

The Connecticut Children's Medical Center supports this legislation. Economic abuse is pervasive, leaving victims disconnected from financial resources and desperate. Child care is often one of the biggest items in a family's budget, and high-quality child care provides important opportunities for children to develop, explore, and grow.

**Madeline Grantano, Policy Director; Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund**

The Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund urges passage of this bill which will allow a victim of domestic violence to access Care 4 Kids. Due to lack of affordable child care options, domestic violence survivors often rely on their abusive partners or ex-partners, or the abuser's family members, to provide childcare, which places survivors in danger of further or increased physical and/or emotional abuse.

**Tess Leone; Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence supports this bill and urges passage. Survivors need to work to support themselves and their children but childcare costs are increasing making them reliant on abusers. This bill would make it easier for victims of domestic abuse to leave their abuser by making them eligible for the Care 4 Kids program.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed

**Reported by: Peter Murszewski**

**Date: 3/20/2020**