

Housing Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-87

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN PROTECTIONS FOR GROUP AND FAMILY

Title: CHILD CARE HOMES.

Vote Date: 3/11/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/4/2021

File No.: 181

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Anwar- 3rd District

REASONS FOR BILL:

There is a greater demand for group child and family care homes in our working communities. Providers have identified barriers on the municipal level when trying to establish or expand their practice. This law will protect the license of the child care providers to prevent landlords and homeowners' associations from restricting the operation of these child care providers.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Beth Bye- Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood- **SUPPORTS** – stating the bill seeks to remove barriers that hamper the operation of family childcare homes. The Office of Early Childhood wishes to "support and expand the number of licensed child care programs in our communities." The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted a critical need for childcare as many families lost access.

Susan Bysiewicz- Lieutenant Governor- **SUPPORTS** – stating the critical importance of expanding access to licensed childcare homes. Childcare homes are vital to working families: providing not only parents the opportunity to work, but also for childcare providers an opportunity to make a living. It also provides low-income households access to quality and affordable childcare.

Melissa McCaw- Office of Policy and Management- **SUPPORTS** – stating the bill makes it easier to operate group childcare homes. This expansion is necessary to meet the need that many low-income families have for affordable and quality childcare services.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Amy Eppler-Epstein- New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc.- **SUPPORTS** – stating licensed home daycare options provide benefits to parents, providers, and children. Landlords can force home childcare underground, leading to a lack of accountability and regulation. The bill would also align state regulations with those of New York and California.

Liz Fraser- Policy Director for the Connecticut Association for Human Services- **SUPPORTS** – stating the bill seeks to provide greater access to childcare. Local zoning often hampers the ability of providers to run their businesses. Expanding access is especially important as Connecticut has a shortage of childcare: the state was short 50,000 infant and toddler slots pre-COVID. The expansion of access also helps support Black and Hispanic owned businesses.

Madeline Granato- CT Women's Education and Legal Fund- **SUPPORTS** – stating 44% of residents live in "childcare deserts" without access to any childcare options. What's more, the state had a 51,000-spot shortage of childcare prior to the pandemic. The bill would expand access to childcare for low-income, rural, and Black and Hispanic residents.

Izzi Greenberg- Director of the Middlesex Coalition for Children- **SUPPORTS** – stating the bill enables parents to work, children to learn, and providers to make a living. The bill ensures that the childcare programs meet state health and safety standards while providing care to underserved communities.

Emmanuella Lature- Owner of Ma Maison Childcare- **SUPPORTS** – stating she faced a mountain of opposition to provide quality childcare from local zoning laws, landlords, and neighbors.

Daniel Shackelford- Yale Law School's Community and Economic Development Clinic- **SUPPORTS** – stating the state has an acute need for affordable childcare as 44% of residents live in a childcare desert. The bill would help alleviate the shortage of childcare options the state faces, as well as lower costs for low-income families. The bill would also bring Connecticut regulations in line with the likes of California and New York.

Sana Shah- Connecticut Voices for Children- **SUPPORTS** – stating 44% of residents live in childcare deserts. The bill would work to alleviate existing childcare shortages.

Jade Thomas- **SUPPORTS** – stating the state has a shortage of 51,000 childcare slots.

The following **SUPPORT SB 87** stating the bill provides clarification on state zoning statutes:

Sean Ghio

Raphael Podolsky- CT Legal Services

Christie Stewart- Fairfield County's Center for Housing Opportunity

The following **SUPPORT SB 87** stating quality childcare is often determined by zip-code, this bill works to expand access to quality childcare to low-income residents. Homebased childcare is 2/3 less expensive than typical childcare. Less expensive providers are critical as

childcare costs 44% of the median single mother's income, and 15% of the median family income:

Kennedy Bennet
Esha Bhattacharya
Colby Bladow
Sydney Bryant
Josephine Cureton
McKenzie Denham
Patrick Feely
Margaret Hankins
Nick Jacobson
Sophie Kane
Isabella Morales
Evan Roberts
Rosie Rothschild
Emma Wallner

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Connecticut Council of Municipalities- OPPOSES – stating the bill represents an unfunded mandate. CCM highlights that they do not oppose group childcare homes but wish to maintain the ability to regulate them through local zoning.

Betsy Gara- Executive Director of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns – OPPOSES – stating the bill limits municipal control over zoning. It is the responsibility to towns to support and protect residents.

Paul Januszewski- President of the Greater Enfield Landlord Association- OPPOSES – stating the bill would limit a landlord's control of their own properties. Allowing these types of childcare programs can lead to a loss of tenants.

Reported by: Gabriel Turco

Date: 3/30/2021