

# Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1005  
AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE POST-PANDEMIC NEEDS OF  
**Title:** CHILDREN.  
**Vote Date:** 2/24/2023  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute  
**PH Date:** 2/16/2023  
**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

The Committee on Children.

## **CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Representative Geraldo C. Reyes of the 75<sup>th</sup> District.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

S.B.1005 serves to establish a task force to study post-pandemic needs of children. The task force would provide recommendations for childcare facilities and group childcare homes and study the feasibility of changing school start times to improve the health of the students. This bill will help determine and invest in the changing needs of children following the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The substitute language of S.B. 1005 serves to define "COVID-19" as the respiratory disease established by the World Health Organization in 2020, and to include a needs assessment test in the purposes of the committee. The intention of the needs assessment test would be to identify gaps in the conditions and desired outcomes of children and determine how the gaps connect to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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

None expressed.

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

Board member of the Connecticut Youth Services Association, Justin Carbonella, supports S.B. 1005 based on concern for youth after a long-term lack of stability and routine. The Connecticut Youth Services association will also be working with the Yale school of public health to provide a literature review of current research on the COVID-19 Pandemic's impact on society and possible ways to address it.

Ledyard High School Student, Joshua Cayangyang, supports the bill because of a decline in test-scores nationally following the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Yale Public Health Student, Katherine Hall, supports the substitute language adding a needs assessment test to the focus areas of the task force.

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate, Geena Lovallo, supports the bill because of her findings of a continued increase in mental health needs across children and adolescents in Connecticut.

Secretary of the Connecticut Youth Services Association, Michelle Picarello, supports the bill based on a consistent increase in youth suffering from anxiety and depression in Connecticut. She supports the language of the bill providing is statewide study of the comprehensive needs of children post the COVID-19 pandemic.

Advocacy chair of the Connecticut Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Jaime Rodriguez, supports the bill because of the continued increase in mental health needs across children and adolescents in Connecticut.

Chair of the Connecticut Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Rebecca Ruitto, supports the bill following the increased need in mental health services for children and adolescents in Connecticut post the COVID-19 Pandemic.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed.

**Reported by: Maeve Hogan**

**Date: 3/7/2023**