

**Commerce Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

Bill No.: SB-249
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD BUSINESS INCUBATOR PROGRAM.
Vote Date: 3/21/2024
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/5/2024
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

REP. KHANNA
REP. FOSTER
REP. GEE

REASONS FOR BILL:

This legislation presents a unique opportunity for fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the early childhood education sector. By establishing a business incubator program, Connecticut can nurture the growth of small businesses and startups (primarily focused on childcare).

Substitute Language: LCO NO. 3069

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend section 1 to include: "July 1, 2024"

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Paul Amarone, Advocacy Outreach Manager-CBIA

Mr. Amarone believes SB249 would allow each aspiring childcare educator that gets certified will be one more educator that can play a significant role in cutting down waitlists and getting more children into established childcare facilities.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Brown, Elizabeth-RIBA Aspira

Ms. Brown believes SB249 would fill a critical need for affordable childcare in low- income communities and addresses the aspirations of individuals to start their own business.

Beth Bye, Commissioner-Office of Early Childhood

Ms. Bye believes SB249 would help provide a 2 supportive place to launch a childcare business and learn business skills that are necessary to build a profitable enterprise.

Kathleen Callahan, Policy Civic Engagement Director-CT Cradle to Career Coalition

Ms. Callahan believes SB249 would support early childhood education and childcare program funding, creating opportunities for generational success, and creating a workforce pipeline. This bill aligns with and supports all of them.

Merrill Gay, Executive Director-CT Early Childhood Alliance

Dina Graves, President - CEO-United Way of Southeastern CT

Tracey Hennessey, Executive Director-YWCA New Britain CT

Ms. Gay, Graves, and Hennessey believes SB249 would provide new childcare entrepreneurs with a supportive place to launch their family childcare business, learn the skills essential to sustain it as a profitable enterprise, and increase their knowledge of child development to ensure high-quality care.

Tomas Olivo, Initiative Director-RIBA ASPIRA Working Cities

Mr. Olivo believes SB249 provides highly needed childcare slots within the community, accessible, and culturally competent.

Coralys Santana, Policy - Advocacy Strategist-The CT Project Action Fund

Ms. Santana believes SB249 would help foster innovation in childcare while ensuring families and children have greater access to high-quality early childhood education and promote economic growth in our communities.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Hassan Ismail

Date: 03/28/2024