

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-305

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT

Title: HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY.

Vote Date: 3/14/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Finance, Revenue and Bonding

PH Date: 3/5/2024

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would have the Connecticut Health & Educational Facilities Authority Community Development Corporation established a program to support childcare facilities in childcare desert with financial assistance through cash contributions from taxpayers. The taxpayer would apply to the corporation, CHEFA Community Development Corporation, to reserve a tax credit for the amount indicated by the taxpayer. This tax credit would incentivize private investment in childcare, especially in areas which are a childcare desert, improve access to childcare in the state of Connecticut, and

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut Health & Educational Facilities Authority, Executive Director, Jeanette W. Weldon](#): supports this bill stating that by creating the Early Childhood Education Tax Credit Program this bill helps incentive private investment into areas of need like childcare. Citing that studies suggest that investments in high quality early childhood education reduce the long-term need for special education and grade level retention, reliance on social service, and interactions with the criminal justice system. They believe this program is a valuable tool that should be a part of an effort to help the childcare system in Connecticut.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[All Our Kin, Policy Analyst, Jade Thomas](#): supports this bill stating that home-base childcare businesses are essential to Connecticut's early care and educational system and that the

creation of a tax credit program addresses the needs of early childhood facilities located in childcare deserts. Citing that research from the US Chamber of Commerce found that almost 60% of parents cited lack of childcare as the impetus for them leaving the workforce. They support and recognize that improving the childcare access for Connecticut families will require long-term investment and sustainability.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Isabella Sardina

Date: 3/26/2024