



Public Health Committee
Public Hearing
Tuesday, March 18, 2024
HB 5003- AAC Child & Family Nutrition

My name is Jim Williams, and I am the Government Relations Director for the American Heart Association in CT. The American Heart Association (AHA) is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. Our mission is to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives, and we take our mission very seriously here in CT. I would like to thank the leadership and members of the Public Health Committee for providing me with the opportunity to provide comments on HB5003 for which we are in strong support.

What we eat and drink matters to our heart and brain health. Many factors impact if an individual or family has nutritious foods available, accessible, affordable and can utilize healthy foods across the lifespan. It is critical to ensure that everyone in all communities are nutrition secure to live as healthy as possible.

Equitable and stable nutrition security requires consistency of a nutritious diet across the life course, ensuring available, accessible, and affordable food to all people at all ages. The American Heart Association supports policy solutions that ensure everyone living in the United States has the knowledge and means to eat nutritious foods across their lifespan. These solutions include working through many approaches already in place to provide address food security.

We strongly support H.B. 5003 and appreciate the Public Health Committee's dedication to making food security programs more accessible and decreasing hunger for Connecticut families. We support this bill because it helps to combat food insecurity, improve public health through nutrition, and promote equitable access to food for all residents. This bill helps to ensure that children and families have increased access to all available nutrition programs in the state.

Thank you very much for your time today and I hope that you will strongly consider supporting this important bill.

Sincerely,

Jim Williams
American Heart Association
Government Relations Director- CT
James.williams@heart.org