Committee on Children
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.:	HB-6903
Title:	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILD CARE SERVICES, EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO PATIENTS RECEIVING PRENATAL CARE.
Vote Date:	2/18/2025
Vote Action:	Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Public Health
PH Date:	2/13/2025
File No.:	

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would establish a pilot program to provide information on childcare, early intervention programs, and financial assistance programs to hospital patients receiving prenatal care. This information would include lists of all childcare centers, group childcare homes, and family childcare homes located in the nearby municipalities of that hospital as well as available early intervention and financial assistance programs. It would also include contact information for those places along with internet websites and descriptions of the programs. The bill also requires the Commissioner of Early Childhood to give an optional survey to all parents that enroll their children in a childcare or early intervention program run by the Office of Early Childhood to inquire whether they enrolled their child because of this pilot program.

This bill aims to help low-income families find childcare resources more easily. Low-income families may experience some difficulty with finding childcare programs or financial resources. This bill attempts to ease some of that burden by making clear what resources are available.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Office of Early Childhood Commissioner, Beth Bye opposes this bill due to its overlap with already existing programs. While they support the intent of the bill, they believe the programs they listed in their testimony already achieve the goals of this bill. Furthermore, they state that the Office of Early Childhood has neither the funding nor the staff to carry out this program.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Cradle to Career Director of Policy and Civic Engagement, Kathleen Callahan supports this bill because it promotes equitable access to childcare. They also recommend that along with tracking enrollment outcomes, hospital feedback from non-enrolling families should also be tracked.

Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance Manager of Membership and Advocacy, Vanessa Hawke supports this bill because it will help expecting parents get a support system in place before they really need it. They emphasize the importance of getting childcare before the realities of caring for a newborn make it harder to access that information.

Stamford Health President and CEO Kathleen Silard supports this bill with the recommendation that the language be changed to include expecting mothers receiving prenatal care at community practices rather than just hospitals. Most prenatal care is through community practices, not through hospitals.

Connecticut Hospital Association, Anonymous would support this bill if the language was changed to include people receiving prenatal care in community practices to reach a wider group of people.

Northeast Early Childhood Council Regional Director, Kristine Cicchetti supports this bill because it empowers families to set their children up for a good future.

National Service Office for Nurse Family Partnership and Child First Government Affairs Manager, Katelyn Galbraith supports this bill because it is important for families to know what resources are out there. They would like for their organization to be included in the programs that are disseminated.

Connecticut Voices for Children Research and Policy Associate, Ruchi Sheth supports this bill because it elevates important information for expecting parents.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Vira Deya opposes this bill.

Reported by: Julia Cabral **Date: 02/19/2025**