

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-265 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CARE 4 KIDS
Title: PROGRAM AND CERTAIN CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

Vote Date: 3/3/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Appropriations

PH Date: 2/24/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Committee on Children

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL

Sen. Anwar, 3rd District

Rep. Gauthier, 38th District

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill seeks to increase funding to the Care 4 Kids program to assist families in getting children off the waiting list and to provide additional support to childcare providers in eastern Connecticut. The delays due to the growing waiting list can reduce enrollment and thus can hinder the work that the organization does in partnership with the Early Childhood Education Endowment. By addressing the funding gaps and the waitlist it creates, this legislation will facilitate the goals of the Endowment.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

There is no substitute language.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health, Associate Commission Analyst Muna Abbas: Ms. Abbas supports this bill as it would address the waitlist and shortage of childcare provider options for low-income families by increasing Care4Kids funding. In addition to the Early Childhood Endowment Fund, more funding is necessary to address the issue. Unaffordable childcare disproportionately impacts families of color, especially Black and Hispanic families, along with working-class families.

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Children’s Policy Analysts Runyi Du, Melvette Hill, Thomas Nuccio, and Yukiyo Iida: The analysts support the bill which would transfer \$70 million dollars from the Federal Cuts Response Fund to the Office of Early Childhood, of which \$65 million would supplement the childcare subsidy program and \$5 million would be disbursed among licensed childcare providers throughout participating providers in eastern Connecticut. Expanding access to childcare comes to the benefit of families and the investment stabilizes and strengthens the workforce. Investing in Care 4 Kids would uplift many families’ economic trajectories.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

The public displays support and argues that additional funding will clear the Care 4 Kids waitlist, thus stabilizing providers and welcoming families back into the childcare system.

- Diana DelGuidice, Hamden*
- Lauren Gray, Orange*
- Sharon Griggs, Uncasville*
- David Kulick, Mystic*
- Eimy Martinez, New Britain*
- Lunie Maxime, Fairfield*
- Faith Taffe, Bloomfield*
- Luz Torres, Hamden*
- Marianella Alayo, East Hartford*
- Gloria Gaskins, Ansonia*
- Charles Grady, Branford*
- Tiffany Gray, West Haven*
- Yerachimiel Karr, Waterbury*
- Gunjan Kukreja, Hamden*
- Yisenia Martinez, Hartford*
- Gladys Portillo, Stamford*
- Aneetrai Rowland, New Haven*

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Linda Dalessio: Ms. Dalessio opposes SB 265, stating that Connecticut taxpayer dollars have been generously funneled into the state for NGO usage. She disapproves of Connecticut’s educational system, and argues that future bills should prioritize transparency, accountability, and auditing.

Reported by: Mia Giglietti and Zachary Robinson Date: 3/10/2026