

PA13-50

SB0887

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**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**CHILDREN
PART 2
308 - 641**

2013

Representative Diana Urban, and first we would like to hear from Michelle Noehren -- Naran.

Michelle, how do I pronounce that, if you could state your name and organization for the record please.

MICHELLE NOEHREN: Good morning, distinguished chairs and members of the committee. My name is Michelle Noehren, and I am here on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, testifying in support of Senate Bill 887 and House Bill 6332. I'm really happy to be here because the commission doesn't have the chance very frequently to come before your committee since we mostly work on issues impacting women over the age of 18.

However, two of the bills in your hearing today impact mothers. The first, Senate Bill 887, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE 4 KIDS PROGRAM would make changes to the Care 4 Kids subsidy program to extend eligibility to recipients who take unpaid leave from employment due to the birth or impending birth of a child provided certain criteria are met. Policies to support workers as they provide -- provide care for family members or to take care of their own health are essential for a strong Connecticut workforce.

House Bill 6332, AN ACT CONCERNING TOXIC FIRE RETARDANTS IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS would ban the use of toxic flame retardants, particularly toxic Tris, in products geared towards children ages three and under.

According to a report entitled "Hidden Hazards in the Nursery," many of the products mothers use with their babies contain toxic fire retardants. The products cited include breast feeding support pillows, car seats and even the very diaper changing pad I used with my own daughter.

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nurse that works two or three different schools, maybe visits the first half of the day and then go to another school and vice versa.

We, at Hartford High, have a full-time nurse. We have a full-time clinic with dentistry. We have -- I mean, it's a -- it's a full-service center.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: What I mean is in order to conduct a blood drive, are you under any kind of a rule from whether it's the board of education or whatever to have a nurse there, or are you just have chosen to do that?

DAVID CHAMBERS: Yes, ma'am. It is not a rule or we didn't ask for permission to do so --

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: Okay.

DAVID CHAMBERS: She's there.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: Okay. Thank you.

Any other questions from committee?

Seeing none, I thank you very much.

DAVID CHAMBERS: Thank you.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: Have a great day.

Okay. Next we will have Maggie Adair. Maggie will be followed by Donna Morrissey.

MAGGIE ADAIR: Good afternoon, Senator Bartolomeo, SB 887
Representative Urban, and members of the Children's Committee. I'm Maggie Adair, executive director of the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance. The alliance is a statewide membership and advocacy organization committed to improving the development outcomes for all

children, birth to eight in areas of early learning, safety, health and economic security.

The Alliance supports Senate Bill 887, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE 4 KIDS PROGRAM. This bill would extend up to 12 weeks the Care 4 Kids payment eligibility period for women who are temporarily absent from work for maternity leave. The bill stipulates that payment eligibility is contingent upon three conditions: the mother intends to return to work; verification is made that eligibility is needed to prevent the loss of a preschool slot; and the child continues to attend the program during the mother's maternity leave.

Providing continued Care 4 Kids coverage for women on maternity leave helps to ensure continuative care and stability for children and allows parents to return to work and ensure family economic security. According to the center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning, studies document that schedules and routines influence a child's emotional, cognitive, and social development. Sustained positive relationships with caregivers promotes nurturing attachments, healthy brain development and better health, emotional and academic outcomes in the early years and later in life.

This bill was introduced last year in the 2012 legislative session but the bill did not pass. We commend the Department of Social Services for voluntarily adopting a new policy effective July 1, 2012, that which provides up to six weeks of Care 4 Kids payment eligibility for mothers on maternity leave. This policy is currently in effect.

So, therefore, the Alliance supports the statutory change and expanding it to 12 weeks as it is proposed in this bill.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: Thank you.

Questions from committee?

Representative Candelaria.

REP. CANDELARIA: Just a quick question, what's the fiscal impact of extending the program, do you know?

MAGGIE ADAIR: So we've ask for data from the Department of Social Services about how many mothers have actually taken advantage of this program. We have not received a response from the Department yet.

I've heard, unofficially, that it's a small number of women and the reason being is these women who are -- who are eligible for Care 4 Kids, they're very poor and so they can't really afford maternity leave for a very long period of time. So, actually, I'm -- you know, we're open to even amending it to align with the Department for six weeks because, from what we've heard, most women would never be able to afford to be absent for 12 weeks, but I do not have specific data from DSS, and we're still seeking that data.

REP. CANDELARIA: And I -- actually, I agree with bill, I agree with the intent of the bill, and I think the problem even extends to a little bit further than that as in regards to DSS themselves. You know, here we are we're looking to extend the program, which I think we -- we must do because it's important, but the other part is the providers themselves. Is the time

frame that it takes for payments to be issued to the providers and that creates another problem that we need to look at.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to bring that up, as well.

MAGGIE ADAIR: Right.

REP. CANDELARIA: But thank you, thank you for your testimony.

MAGGIE ADAIR: And I'll say that the Care 4 Kids, there are some concerns about payments and how -- and the delays in payments, as well, but I will say last year when we were testifying on this bill why this is so important is that not only for the continuity of the care for the child but many times if the mother, before this was not in effect, the mother had to take her child, her younger child, out of preschool and then would lose that slot or the provider would try to keep that slot open for the child but that was a loss of income for -- it was a hardship for the early care and education provider.

REP. CANDELARIA: And exactly and just to follow up on what you just said. You have the provider that has that empty slot, he's not getting paid for that slot --

MAGGIE ADAIR: Right.

REP. CANDELARIA: And unfortunately, they're low income, as well, so they're trying to survive so at this point they'll fill that slot leaving that parent out of a slot for their child.

MAGGIE ADAIR: Right. So this policy change makes sense for the child --

REP. CANDELARIA: It does. I agree with you.

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MAGGIE ADAIR: -- the parent. It makes sense for the provider.

REP. CANDELARIA: Thank you.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: Thank you.

And could we follow up and have that information, when you do get the report, the information that Representative asked for?

MAGGIE ADAIR: Yes, from DSS?

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: Yes, please.

MAGGIE ADAIR: We will definitely --

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: -- So when you get that if you'd make sure you get that to the committee.

MAGGIE ADAIR: We will definitely get that.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: And if you have trouble getting that just let the committee know.

MAGGIE ADAIR: We will let you know that, as well.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: Okay.

MAGGIE ADAIR: Data is important.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: Any other questions?

Okay. Well, thank you very much.

MAGGIE ADAIR: Thank you.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: Okay. Next we have Donna Morrissey followed by Jillian Gilchrest.

JILLIAN GILCHREST: Good afternoon, Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, and members of the Children's Committee. My name is Jillian Gilchrest and I'm the assistant policy director at the Connecticut Association for Human Services. CAHS is a member of the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance and the Hartford Area Childcare Collaborative. We also host the Providers Caucus, which is a forum for childcare providers in family-based and center-based childcare setting, both publicly and privately funded to receive information about statewide policy happenings and programming and learned and share best practices among childcare providers statewide.

With a membership of more than 300 childcare providers and growing, the Providers Caucus listserv is reaching a diversity of childcare providers statewide.

I'm testifying today in support of Senate Bill 887, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE 4 KIDS PROGRAM. This legislation proposes to change current statute to allow women taking unpaid leave from work due to the birth or pending birth of a child 12 weeks of payment eligibility during their leave if the recipient intends to return to work, verifies that eligibility is needed to prevent a loss of a preschool slot, and the child continues to attend the program during the recipient's leave.

We commend the committee for introducing this legislation. Seventy percent of all low-income workers have two or fewer weeks of sick and vacation time, and the majority of low-income families do not qualify for FMLA. There's such a short amount of unpaid leave, the negative impacts of losing the Care 4 Kids childcare subsidy on the child, parent and childcare

provider for outweigh the cost associated with changing the policy.

When I asked the Providers Caucus, I heard from providers that this policy had caused parents to lose slots for their children, delay parents -- once their -- there were delays once the Care 4 Kids got reinstated causing a parent to miss time and wages from work. And parents, who didn't know the policy, actually ended up owing the Department of Social Services money.

Based on a similar -- similar legislative proposal that was introduced last year but didn't pass, the State Department of Social Services enacted an administrative change to create a new eligibility group, addressing maternity leave up to six weeks. Based on the Department of Social Services' written testimony that they submitted for today -- and you asked this earlier -- to date, there's been minimal fiscal impact on that administrative six-week change. And the Department of Social Services is not opposing expanding it to the 12 weeks. That's in this legislation.

We think that it is important to get a statutory change, and we support the expansion to 12 weeks. We just feel that it is important and we'll be doing our job to get the word out to parents. So thank you for attention to this important policy matter.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: Thank you.

Questions from committee?

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

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And thank you very much for your -- for your testimony. You said that, up to this point, that the cost for the six weeks have been minimal. Could you tell me or do you have access to what that number would be?

JILLIAN GILCHREST: So that's according to the Department of Social Services testimony they submitted for today. It's their written testimony.

REP. BETTS: Okay.

JILLIAN GILCHREST: I don't know --

REP. BETTS: I'll look for it then.

Thank you.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: Any other questions?

Thank you very much.

JILLIAN GILCHREST: Thank you.

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: Okay. We now have Brian Anderson, Brian Anderson.

Okay. We'll move onto Thomas Osimitz; is that correct?

DR. THOMAS OSIMITZ: I get to try your name now, so --

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO: I know.

DR. THOMAS OSIMITZ: That's very good.

HB 6332

Osimitz.

Senator Bartolomeo -- is that right -- representative Urban, Senator Linares, and Representative Betts, and members of the



Written Testimony before the Select Committee on Children

February 21, 2012

The department offers the following written testimony on SB 887, An Act Concerning the Care4Kids Program.

S.B. No. 887 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM.

This proposal would require the department to continue C4K payments during unpaid maternity leave for up to 12 weeks provided that:

- The parent intends to return to work at the end of the maternity leave;
- The child(ren) continue to receive care in a licensed or school-based child care setting, and
- Payment is needed to prevent the loss of a slot in a licensed or school-based child care setting.

Last session the department worked with the proponents, in lieu of legislation, to offer this benefit to C4K recipients for up to 6 weeks. It was agreed that the department would closely monitor program expenditures and discontinue if it was determined that it was exceeding anticipated demand. To date, the department has seen minimal fiscal impact. We believe that there will not be a significant impact to the program by increasing the number of weeks to twelve; therefore we are not opposed to this proposal.

CONNECTICUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Independent research and advocacy to improve the lives of Connecticut's children

Testimony Supporting

S.B. 887: An Act Concerning the Care4Kids Program

Sarah Esty and Cyd Oppenheimer, J.D.

Committee on Children

February 21, 2013

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, and Members of the Committee on Children

We are testifying today on behalf of Connecticut Voices for Children, a research-based public education and advocacy organization that works statewide to promote the well-being of Connecticut's children, youth, and families.

We support SB 887, "An Act Concerning the Care4Kids Program," which extends up to 12 weeks the Care4Kids payment eligibility period for women who are temporarily absent from work for maternity leave.

Care4Kids provides subsidies for low- to moderate-income working parents to assist with the cost of child care. This program supports child care for about 7,200 infants and toddlers and 7,500 preschoolers a month,¹ allowing their parents to work or receive job training, and providing a safe, nurturing environment for the young children.

Providing continued Care4Kids coverage for women on maternity leave helps ensure continuity of care and stability for children, and allows parents to return to work, promoting family economic security. Under previous policy, when a woman who received Care4Kids took time off due to a pregnancy or after the pregnancy to care for her newborn, she was expected to notify the program of her change in employment status, at which point her subsidy would be suspended until her return to work. The consequences were severe. The child would be pulled out of care for the period of maternity leave, interrupting his routine. The child care center would be forced to scramble to cover the costs of an open slot. Frequently, the child would lose her slot, disrupting the child's life further. And without child care, the mother would be unable return to work.

We laud the Department of Social Services for voluntarily adopting a new policy last year, under which it provides 6 weeks of Care4Kids payment eligibility for mothers on maternity leave. We support codifying this practice legislatively and expanding it to 12 weeks, as is proposed in SB 887.

Studies have documented that schedules and routines influence children's emotional, cognitive, and social development, and that predictable and consistent schedules in preschool classrooms help children feel secure and comfortable.² Continuity of care is critical for development, particularly in very young children. Children who experience fewer changes in child care providers during their

¹ The latest enrollment figures, from September 2012, show 7,201 infants and toddlers and 7,462 preschoolers receiving Care4Kids subsidies. See, "Number of Children Paid by Age Category and Service Setting," *Connecticut Department of Social Services* (September 2012), available at: <http://www.ctcare4kids.com/files/2012/12/Sept2012.pdf>

² See, for example, Diane Dodge and Toni Bickart, "How Curriculum Frameworks Respond to Developmental Stages: Birth through Age 8," *Clearinghouse on Early Education and Parenting*, University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana, available at: <http://ceep.crc.uiuc.edu/pubs/katzsym/dodge.pdf>

earliest years experience more outgoing and less aggressive behaviors in preschool and kindergarten.³ Sustained stable relationships with caregivers allow children to form positive, secure attachments which build the healthy brain architecture that increases the odds of desirable outcomes – including health, academic, and emotional – later in life.⁴

If the legislature is concerned about current recipients of Care4Kids being crowded out by an influx of children with parents on maternity leave, we would also support an amendment to this bill to limit payment eligibility to 6 weeks, in line with current Department practice. We support six weeks as the logical minimum eligibility limit since an infant must be six weeks old before he can be placed in a day care center.

³ See, Rachel Schumacher and Elizabeth Hoffmann, "Continuity of Care: Charting Progress for Babies in Child Care Research-Based Rationale," *Center for Law and Social Policy*, (August 2008), available at <http://www.policyarchive.org/handle/10207/bitstreams/13791.pdf>

⁴ See, for example, Rachel Schumacher and Elizabeth Hoffmann, "Continuity of Care: Charting Progress for Babies in Child Care Research-Based Rationale," *Center for Law and Social Policy*, (August 2008), available at <http://www.policyarchive.org/handle/10207/bitstreams/13791.pdf>
Connecticut Voices for Children



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Children's Committee
Testimony of Jillian Gilchrest, Early Care and Education Policy Analyst
Connecticut Association for Human Services
RE: SB 887, An Act Concerning the Care4Kids Program
February 21, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and members of the Children's Committee. My name is Jillian Gilchrest and I am the Assistant Policy Director for the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS).

Founded in 1910, CAHS promotes family economic security strategies that empower low-income working families to achieve financial independence. CAHS also hosts the Providers' Caucus, a forum for childcare providers in family based and center based childcare settings, both publicly and privately funded, to receive information about statewide policy happenings and programming, and learn and share best practices amongst childcare providers statewide. With a membership of more than 300 childcare providers and growing, the Providers' Caucus listserv is reaching a diversity of childcare providers statewide.

CAHS is also a member of the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, a statewide membership and advocacy organization committed to improving the developmental outcomes for all children, birth to 8, in the areas of early learning, health, safety and economic security and the Hartford Area Childcare Collaborative.

I am testifying in support of SB 887, An Act Concerning the Care4kids Program. This legislation proposes to change current statute to allow women taking unpaid leave from work due to the birth or impending birth of a child twelve weeks of payment eligibility during the leave if the recipient intends to return to work, verifies that eligibility is needed to prevent a loss pre-school slot, and the child continues to attend the program during the recipient's leave.

We commend the Committee for introducing this legislation. 70% of all low-income workers have two or fewer weeks of sick and vacation time and the majority of low-income families do not qualify for FMLA. For such a short amount of unpaid leave, the negative impacts of losing



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the Care4kids childcare subsidy on the child, parent, and child care provider far outweigh the costs associated with changing this policy.

Based on a similar legislative proposal that was introduced last year but didn't pass, the State Department of Social Services enacted an administrative change to create a new eligibility group addressing maternity leave up to six weeks, effective July 1, 2012. The policy is currently being implemented. With that said, it is important that a statutory change be made to ensure this policy continues to be enforced long term and therefore CAHS support this bill. Given the state budget constraints and concern over cost, we wouldn't be opposed to amended language to align this proposal with the existing six-week leave policy that Department has enacted.

Thank you for your attention to this important policy matter.



Connecticut
Early Childhood
Alliance

Testimony before the Select Committee on Children Committee
Re: S.B. 887 – An Act Concerning the Care4Kids Program
Submitted by Maggie Adair, Executive Director
Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance
Thursday, February 21, 2013

Good afternoon, Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, and members of the Committee on Children. I am Maggie Adair, Executive Director of the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance (Alliance). The Alliance is a statewide advocacy and membership organization committed to improving outcomes for all children, birth to age eight, in the areas of early learning, health, safety, and economic security.

The Alliance supports S.B. 887 – An Act Concerning the Care4Kids Program. This bill would extend up to 12 weeks the Care4Kids payment eligibility period for women who are temporarily absent from work for maternity leave. The bill stipulates that payment eligibility is contingent upon three conditions: the mother intends to return to work, verification is made that eligibility is needed to prevent the loss of a preschool slot, and the child continues to attend the program during the mother's maternity leave.

Providing continued Care4Kids coverage for women on maternity leave helps to ensure continuity of care and stability for children, and allows parents to return to work and ensure family economic security. According to the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning, studies document that schedules and routines influence a child's emotional, cognitive, and social development. Sustained positive relationships with caregivers promotes nurturing attachments, healthy brain development, and better health, emotional and academic outcomes in the early years and later in life.

This bill language was introduced in the 2012 legislative session, but the bill did not pass. We commend the Department of Social Services for voluntarily adopting a new policy effective July 1, 2012, which provides up to 6 weeks of Care4Kids payment eligibility for mothers on maternity leave. The policy is currently in effect. The Alliance supports a statutory change and expanding it to 12 weeks, as is proposed in S.B. 877.

Given the state budget constraints and recent cuts to the Care4Kids program, we would also support an amendment to align this bill with the existing six-week leave policy that DSS enacted. The six-week window aligns with the age that an infant is allowed to be placed in a licensed early childhood setting in Connecticut.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE
 999 ASYLUM AVENUE, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105



Jamey Bell
 Acting Child Advocate

Testimony by Jamey Bell, Acting Child Advocate
 In Support of
Senate Bill 887: AAC the Care 4 Kids Program
HB 6399: AAC Children in the Juvenile Justice System
HB 6400: AAC Mandated Reporters and Requiring Criminal History Records Checks for Youth Camp Directors and Alternate Directors

Children's Committee
 February 21, 2013

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, Distinguished Members of the Children's Committee:

The mandate of the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) includes evaluating the delivery of state funded services to children and advocating for policies and practices that promote their well-being and protect their special rights.

I. The OCA supports House Bill 6399: AAC Children in the Juvenile Justice System.

Shackling and other mechanical restraint of children should be inherently suspect because it is anti-rehabilitative (contrary to the purpose of the juvenile justice system) and traumatic (for children and youth who are shackled, and for observers witnessing it). Therefore all pre-adjudication decisions concerning use of shackles, handcuffs and mechanical restraints for the public's safety should be made based on an *individualized risk assessment* by a judge based on reliable, current evidence. (It should *also* trigger an assessment of and treatment for any underlying psychiatric issues contributing to the child's aggression.)

A child's period of commitment to the Department of Children and Families should be **reduced by the time already spent** in detention or any other pre-adjudication out-of-home setting. This provision will ensure that children and adolescents do not face unnecessarily long punishments as a result of delays in finding suitable placements. This risk is especially salient for girls and young women in Connecticut, where far fewer appropriate rehabilitative and treatment placements exist for them, in comparison to the options available for boys and young men.

Requiring that a youth's parents be present when youth are questioned by police for all crimes is necessary to protect youth from their inherent immaturity, lack of fully developed brain function and legal inability to act and make decisions on their own behalf. These essential

truths about children and youth require prohibiting the admission of statements by juveniles without their parents present *in all cases*, including those where the youth are tried as adults.

The OCA supports automatic erasure of all juvenile offenders' court records after two years in cases where the juvenile was convicted of a delinquent act. Automatic erasure, versus requiring a juvenile to know that such erasure is possible and to then request it, will help eliminate additional barriers to success as adults for these young people who, due to dysfunction in and disruption to their adolescent development, are already highly likely to face significant challenges.

II. The OCA supports Senate Bill 887: AAC the Care 4 Kids Program extending up to 12 weeks the Care4Kids payment eligibility period for women who are temporarily absent for work for maternity leave. This provision promotes the well-being of children by both

- ensuring continuity of care and stability for children during critical early development years; and
- encouraging their parents' ability to work and increase their families' economic security, which in turn enhances their children's wellbeing.

III. The OCA supports House Bill 6400: AAC Mandated Reporters and Requiring Criminal History Records Checks for Youth Camp Directors and Alternate Directors. It is self-evident, based upon recent very high profile incidents of child sexual abuse, that coaches and others with ready and intimate access to children must be included in the list of individuals who are mandated to report suspicion of sexual or other abuse of children. Everyone must be enlisted in efforts to appropriately protect children from the serious and lifelong consequences of abuse.

For these same reasons, requiring background checks of camp directors and others entrusted with authority over children's daily lives, especially when they are physically separated from their parents and in settings not in the public arena, is a minimal, common sense strategy for safeguarding children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality since 1973

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Testimony of
 Michelle Noehren
 Events & Special Projects Director
 The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
 Before the
 Children's Committee
 February 21, 2013

Re: S.B. 887, AAC the Care 4 Kids Program
H.B. 6332, AAC Toxic Fire Retardants in Children's Products

Senators Bartolomeo and Linares, Representatives Urban and Betts, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) on S.B. 887 and H.B. 6332. PCSW does not come before this committee very frequently because our purview is women over the age of 18 but the two bills we are here in support of today have a great impact on mothers.

S.B. 887, AAC the Care 4 Kids Program

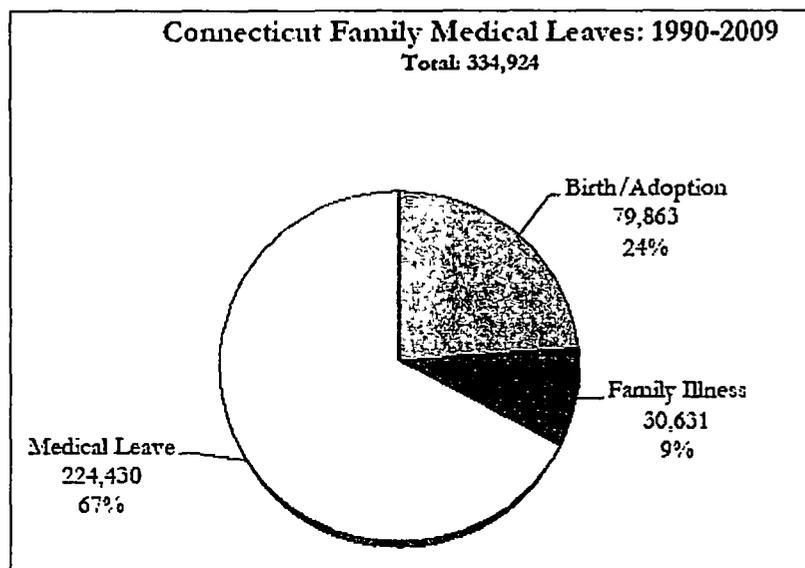
S.B. 887 would make changes to the Care 4 Kids subsidy program to extend eligibility to recipients who take unpaid leave from their employment due to the birth or impending birth of a child provided certain criteria are met. Policies to support workers as they provide care for family members or take care of their own health are essential for a strong Connecticut workforce.

Work supports such as childcare are critical to helping low-income mothers gain and maintain employment. A study conducted by the Center for Economic and Policy Research examined how patterns of childcare access affect women's employment outcomes. The author points out that, in order to receive publicly funded childcare, many women need to either be on welfare or have just exited welfare. Many working families cannot afford to purchase childcare, and only those who very recently left welfare have any likelihood of receiving public benefits. This creates a hole in the safety net for low-wage working women who do not have sufficient income to purchase childcare in the market.¹

¹ Heather Boushey, Ph.D. *The Effects on Employment and Wages When Medicaid and Child Care Subsidies are No Longer Available* Center for Economic and Policy Research, January 26, 2005 < http://www.cepr.net/publications/Effects_on_employment_wages_without_medicaid_child_care_subsidies.htm >

Impact on CT Women

Twenty-four percent (24%) of those that take family and medical leave do so for the birth or adoption of a child.²



S.B. 887 would eliminate one barrier to retaining sustainable employment, and therefore allow many low-income mothers to continue employment after the birth of a child.

H.B. 6332, AAC Toxic Fire Retardants in Children's Products

H.B. 6332 would ban the use of toxic flame retardants, particularly toxic tris, in products geared towards children ages three and under. According to a report entitled *Hidden Hazards in the Nursery*, many of the products mothers use with their babies contain toxic fire retardants. The products cited include breastfeeding support pillows, car seats and diaper changing pads, among others. Toxic tris has been shown to be a carcinogen, a hormone disruptor, and to have an impact on the nervous system.

Just this week a new report was released called *Naptime Nightmares: Toxic Flame Retardants in Child Care Nap Mats* by the Center for Environmental Health. The Center found that many foam nap mats on the market contain more than one type of chemical flame retardant and multiple mats contain Tris. Naptime is meant to be a time of rest and rejuvenation for children, not a time for them to be exposed to harmful chemicals.

While there are clear reasons to ban this chemical for the health of our children, we are also here because mothers deserve the ability to purchase products for their children that are safe. Even though women are primarily the main family member purchasing products, most mothers have no idea that toxic chemicals are being used in many of the common baby products they put in their carts. Unfortunately, it's a common misconception that if a product can be bought on a shelf in a store it's safe.

² Connecticut Department of Labor *Annual Family Medical Leave Experience Reports, 1999-2009*.

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 16, 2013

Total Number Voting	134
Necessary for Passage	68
Those voting Yea	134
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	16

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The bill passes.

Would the Clerk please call Calendar Number 490.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, on Calendar Page 24, Calendar Number 490, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Human Services, Substitute Senate Bill Number 887

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE 4 KIDS PROGRAM.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Motion before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the

pat/gbr
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bill in concurrence with the Senate. Please proceed,
Representative.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this would codify current DSS practice for the Care 4 Kids Program to include parents that receive the benefits of the program to do so during unpaid maternity leave.

Last year, DSS worked with the proponents, the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, the Connecticut Human Services Association, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and Connecticut Voices for Children to begin this six weeks as a trial, and now report that there is minimal fiscal impact.

So it is appropriate after this trial period to codify this. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Motion before the Chamber is passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate. Will you comment further? Will you remark further? Representative Betts of the 78th.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few questions to the proponent of the bill, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban, please prepare yourself.

Representative Betts, proceed, please.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you very much. Representative Urban had said that this had minimal impact after the Department itself had willingly worked with the proponents to try this out, basically on a pilot basis, so there was no legislation adopted last year.

And I wonder, through you, Mr. Speaker, do we have any information about how many people took advantage of this program and what approximately the fiscal impact is as opposed to minimal impact?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I do not have exact numbers, but we have been assured through testimony and through discussion with DSS that the number was not such that is posed a problem to them and that the fiscal impact was, indeed, minimum.

To the extent, through you, Mr. Speaker, that they were willing to go to 12 weeks, but are codifying it at six weeks. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you. Thank you for that answer, and that raises a very interesting question. The original bill itself had asked for 12 weeks. Could the gentle lady explain to us why it's not going to be 12 weeks?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, given the current economic situation and looking at what normal business practice is, six weeks is usually what we give new moms to get back to work, so my understanding is that it seemed appropriate to go with the six weeks under the present circumstances.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78th):

I thank you and I thank you for that answer, and I certainly agree with that, the reasons given for why it was not expanded.

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One of the concerns I have about this program is that it will be expanded, and that also is going to lead to another program in which people become more dependent, because they're getting expanded benefits.

Regardless of the value of it, I'm a little concerned about what this program is going to end up leading to. It's now six weeks, which is to the norm for most everybody else, but I anticipate a bill being introduced again to go a higher rate, which I think would be taking us down the wrong road, especially for the recipients.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if this bill did not pass, would that program still continue?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I really, I would have to say without putting words in DSS' mouth, that perhaps it would continue, but it is our job in this Chamber to establish policy and we believe that this is risen to the level that it should be policy so that if there is any change in this program, as the good Representative has indicated, if there was a change to

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go from six weeks to twelve weeks, or to eliminate it, that they would then have to come back to us as a legislative body to either approve or disapprove of that. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you. Thank you for that answer. The reason why I asked the question is, as Representative Urban had said, the legislation was not passed last year, and yet the program was initiated by the Department itself without our input.

And the question I have in my mind, and we've talked about this on several bills, not only today but throughout this Session is, we seem to be in the routine and the practice and habit of passing laws, and I question whether this needs to be put in statute.

I would agree with Representative Urban. I think this program would, in fact, continue to take place and that we don't need legislation. They did it last year without legislation and I would say that they would be able to do it again without legislation.

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And so therefore, I'm wondering why we have to adopt laws when programs are already in place without laws that we did not do before this particular point.

I agree with Representative Urban. I do think this program will remain in place. I do agree with the six weeks. I just don't understand the need or the benefit for putting into law something that is already being done by the Department and will not jeopardize that program from continuing if we don't pass this.

To me, this is just additional paperwork that we're continuing to pile on state agencies and many of you heard me talk about this before. At what point are we going to stop doing this?

If there's a change in this program, we will know about it next year, whether it's eliminating it, expanding it, but there has absolutely been no need to have legislation for it, and for that reason, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be, even though I voted for it in Committee, I am now going to be opposing it because the people are in fact getting the grants.

The Department of Social Services did say it had minimal fiscal impact, although we don't have any precise numbers, and given the fact that they're

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already doing it, I just simply don't understand the need or the benefit of our passing another law for something that's already in place.

So I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Chair for her answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative. Representative Abercrombie of the 83rd.

REP. BERCROMBIE (83rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this legislation. I worked on this piece of legislation last year and I think this is good policy.

You know, right now our families that are on the Care 4 Kids Program, if they have a child in this program, they should be able to have the maternity leave and know that their spot is protected under their child care.

This doesn't have any added cost because these individuals are already getting this program. I think it is important for us to codify this because we know in this building that things change and as policymakers, it's our job to make sure that our good policy is under the direction of DSS and that they do exactly what the intent of the legislation is.

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So I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative, and thank you for your work on this bill. Representative Sampson of the 80th. You're deferring to Representative Betts. Representative Betts, for the second time.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you very much. For the second time, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I could pose a question to Representative Abercrombie. Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Stand at ease for a moment, please.

(CHAMBER AT EASE.)

Representative Betts, you would have to ask your question through the Chair, if there's a question or an opinion. I'm not sure the Representative who had an opinion on a bill that she previously worked on.

So if you do have a question, you would have to ask that through the esteemed Chair of the Committee.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Okay, that's fine. Thank you very much. I know that Representative Abercrombie put a lot of time into

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this and I'm also a very strong supporter of the Care
4 Kid Program.

My question through the Chair, I guess to
Representative Abercrombie is, my understanding is,
this program would in fact, still continue and there
would be no loss of mothers having the ability to be
able to reserve their spot as I read this bill.

Am I correct, through you, Mr. Speaker, or
through Representative Urban, or however you'd like to
direct the question to?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban, do you care to respond to
Representative Betts?

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Please proceed, Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, when the good
Representative asked me the question, I was
speculating and I don't think anyone can really say
what exactly is going to happen to that particular
Department if we do not pass this bill.

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This was a pilot program. The purpose behind it was to see if it would work out and if DSS could see that there was minimal fiscal impact, and if it was beneficial and I think clearly, it is beneficial if a mom can have her child taken care of while she's on unpaid maternity leave.

So I don't think it's appropriate for me, through you, Mr. Speaker, to put words in the Commissioner of DSS' mouth.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Betts.

REP. BETTS (78th):

Thank you very much. I thank you for that answer. Actually, I'm not really debating the merits of the program, because we all support that, nor am I trying to put words in the Commissioner's mouth.

But I do have here his testimony on this bill and it did say as Representative Urban had said, that he had worked with the proponents in lieu of the legislation to set up this program. So that's not, in my eyes, putting in, putting words in the Department's, or in the Commissioner's mouth. It's more of a reflection of the decision and the action

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that the Department had taken, and in fact I support that decision.

I think it worked out very well and that's the reason why I think it's good policy.

What I don't support, and what I do question is the idea of putting this into law when the Commissioner was already able to establish, run and administer this program without any interference, support, or law from the Legislature and that's the question why I don't understand the need for this because it will carry on unless somebody can show me evidence that this program will not carry on without this bill.

So I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative. Representative Sampson of the 80th.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of questions to the proponent of the bill if I could.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Please proceed.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

I remember that this issue came up in the last Session. In fact, I remember testifying in opposition to the creation of this program and I know that I was not alone when I did so. It seems to me that the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, Commissioner Bremby also testified in opposition.

So my question to the proponent of the bill is, I'm hearing for the first time that this program has been in existence over the last year, and I'm wondering how that's possible. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it was possible because Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, Connecticut Association for Human Services, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and Connecticut Voices for Children worked with DSS to begin as a trial, this particular program with the six-week caveat in it and it was found to have minimal fiscal impact.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

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Representative Sampson.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the gentle lady for her answer. I don't know that answers my question, though, however. It seems to me that if we had a bill before the Legislature last year that was required to enact this program, and that did not become law, then how did the program become enacted? This is the question that I have.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I think oftentimes in this Chamber we present something that we would like to move forward and it doesn't move forward and then groups get together like the groups that I just mentioned and they discuss it and they work together and then they do a trial program, which is what happened with DSS.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Sampson.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again, thank you to the gentle lady.

Well, I guess what I would say is, if there is a bill before the Legislature in order to enact a law to make a program happen, that would presume to mean that you need the law to enact the program.

So if that was the case that what we did in the Legislature did not matter last year to enact this program, then why is the bill before us here to enact the program?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. As I think I mentioned before, it is our responsibility to establish policy in the State of Connecticut. This was a pilot program. It has risen to the level of a program that we feel that we can continue without fiscal impact and that once we codify it, then it will become our responsibility to make any changes that might be suggested.

If it was not codified, it would not have our imprint on it to discuss whether it should be six

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weeks, whether it should be four weeks, whether it should be whatever we happen to decide.

So in simple terms, it has risen to the level of a point where policy should be established and it should be codified. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Sampson.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks again to the gentle lady for her answers.

I guess the reason we make laws to enact programs is so that the Legislature would have oversight over these programs, and I think that's the point I'm trying to make is, we had a bill before us in the last Session to discuss this, whether it's a good idea, and the testimony from myself and others including the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, said that it was not a good idea and ultimately the bill did fail.

So I'm puzzled to why myself or the Commissioner or anyone else would stand before the Legislature in any Committee to give testimony in opposition to a bill so it does not become law and then the practice goes forward anyway.

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Through you, Mr. Speaker, a follow up question about Commissioner Bremby for instance. I just found the newspaper article that came out the last time this proposal was before us, and according to the Commissioner, he said that he estimated the maternity leave position would cost \$2.57 million, the teen parent would cost \$3.5 million and the unemployment expansion would cost \$14.2 million.

So I'm wondering if the Commissioner of the DSS thought that this was the type of a fiscal impact that would occur last time.

What has changed between now and then?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd)P

Through you, Mr. Speaker, being a person who deals with data all the time, my assumption is that they were, had numbers that they anticipated that would happen for women getting pregnant and needing use of the program and that those numbers did not come to fruition.

Perhaps they've based them on statistics that were inaccurate and then working with these agencies

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and sitting around the table and firming up the income levels that they were dealing with and the long-term savings by keeping these children in child care and allowing the mom to have that so she could return to work were all taken into consideration and the fiscal note was, became within minimal fiscal impact.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Sampson.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess what I'm being told is that now that the program has been run, despite the lack of a law providing for that, that the results have turned out that the fiscal impact is less than what was initially anticipated by Commissioner Bremby last year when we were having this conversation. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely correct. And to the point where they have felt that they could actually go to twelve weeks, but as I

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answered to my good Ranking Member, we do not think that's appropriate. We think the six weeks, which is what is the norm, is appropriate. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Sampson.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again to the gentle lady. Now, the only thing I would say about that is that, well, let me ask this question.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, was any data provided by the Department of Social Services as far as the actual costs that were incurred for the program as it has progressed over the past year?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I do not have the data in front of me to the good Representative. We do subsidize low to moderate income working parents, and the idea is that we don't want them to lose their child care so that they lose their job.

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We do look at the cost for infants and toddlers and preschoolers and those costs are taken into account and I'm sorry, through you, Mr. Speaker, I don't have those numbers in front of me.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Sampson.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I completely understand. I would not expect you to have the numbers before you. I'm asking whether or not this data was provided to the Office of Fiscal Analysis so that they could properly produce an accurate fiscal note? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that our Office of Fiscal Analysis is a nonpartisan office and it is their job to get that data, I would only assume that they, in fact, have the data.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Sampson.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some real serious reservations about how this process occurred to begin with. Each Representative in this Legislature and each Senator upstairs I think believes that their vote counts for something and that when we make a decision to enact a law or not to enact a law, then that's what's supposed to happen.

When a bill comes before us it seems to me there is a desire to enact a certain law, and when action is not taken, clearly it's not a law. So when I find out that we defeated a proposal to create a new program in the State of Connecticut in the previous Session and it just so happens that program ends up being created anyway at a cost, although we cannot seem to define what it is here today, but at a cost to the taxpayers of the State of Connecticut, no doubt, I think there should be some accountability.

Mr. Speaker, a follow up question. Speaking of cost --DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Please proceed, Representative.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

Speaking of cost, I'm wondering how it could be justified, any additional cost from this program, that

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have been generated, can be paid for when they were not initially appropriated? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, any action that is taken clearly has an opportunity cost. So my assumption is that the good Commissioner looked at the opportunity cost of this particular program and found that those costs were not too high to establish a minimal fiscal impact.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Sampson.

REP. SAMPSON (80th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can appreciate that assumption, although it seems to be completely contrary to his own statements. I mean, the Commissioner stated what he thought the expenses were and went ahead with the program anyway, despite the fact that he had testified in opposition to the bill, and that's what I'm hearing today. This is what I don't understand.

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But I'm going to let it go. I don't think that we're in a position to hash out what Commissioner Bremby's opinions are now or what they were shortly after he testified on that bill.

But it does beg the question. How are we allowing agencies in the State of Connecticut to go forward with programs that have not been approved by this Legislature and are generating additional costs to the State of Connecticut?

This is my concern. I think that the taxpayers in the State of Connecticut are already facing a serious burden and we should not be increasing that without the approval of this Legislature.

And despite the fact that this bill is before us, that would essentially, I don't know, create some validity for something that's already going on, I would have liked to have my initial impact on whether that process went forward or not, and for those reasons, I will be voting no today, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative Sampson.
Representative Noujaim of the east end of Waterbury,

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known as the 74th Assembly District. Representative
Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good to see you sir,
coming all the way from the Bunker Hill area of the
City of Waterbury to the northwest of the City. An
honor to have you here with us today, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative. It is on the other
side of the River.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

As known as the Naugatuck River. Mr. Speaker,
now that we are done with the compliments, good to see
you there, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Please proceed, Representative.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through you
to Representative, I do have a question that is a
little confusing to me and usually I read and then I
comprehend what I read but I am looking at a section
in this bill, which is new language and I had to read
it three times and then look again at the bill
analysis before I was able to understand it.

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And to Representative Urban, this has to do with Lines 93 to 94 and basically what it says, that child shall be granted not more than six weeks of payment eligibility.

Initially, Lines 92 and 93 talking about a mother taking unpaid leave and then it says, six weeks of payment eligibility and it's confusing.

Should this be six weeks of payment eligibility for the Care 4 Kids Program so it will be specific as to what this eligibility is for? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the good Representative, someone was talking to me and I'm not sure that I understood your question. Are you asking me when the six weeks starts? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Noujaim, could you redirect the question?

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will redirect my question again. Lines 93 and 94 are a little confusing because what they say is that somebody will be eligible for six weeks of payment eligibility directly after speaking about the mother having unpaid leave for a period of six weeks.

So that eligibility immediately kind of like concur that it is eligibility of payment of some sort, but not to the child.

Shouldn't Line 94 be expanded to say, eligibility for the Care 4 Kids Program for six weeks?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I think that the language within the language it assumes, because we are talking about the Care 4 Kids Program that that would be the case. But if you would like me to say that for legislative intent, through you, Mr. Speaker, that would be legislative intent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't like assumptions. I think all of us know what assuming means, so I really appreciate Representative Urban's clarification of it because for legislative intent, it is important to know what the eligibility is for and that should be stated.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, I have another question to Representative Urban, if I may, and this is the beginning of Line 91, which is obviously new language and it speaks --

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Please proceed, Representative.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

And through you, Mr. Speaker, it speaks about within available appropriations.

So my question to Representative Urban, is it already appropriated in the budget of the State of Connecticut so that expenditures can be made, and where would it be in the budget? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the program itself is already in the budget because we've already been doing it.

But I believe that the words within available appropriations, and I'll go back to my discussion of opportunity costs, one never knows what opportunity costs are going to be changing based on the economy and different prices and costs within the economy, so that is a way of saying that if opportunity costs change, perhaps available appropriations changes.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, I have a philosophical question, basically based on the discussion that Representative Sampson just had with the proponent of the bill, Representative Urban.

And believe me, I am not against the program. I think the program 4 Kids is a good program. My only concern is the fact that if the legislation came before us and it was defeated, it did not go forth, but yet we ended up doing the program despite the fact

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that the Legislature did not pass this piece of legislation, did not make it law.

And I'd like Representative Urban to again explain it, if I may, how could this happen when a bill comes before this Body of the General Assembly and the Upper Chamber, it does not go forth but yet the program gets implemented anyway. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, during the debates over this bill before, there were negotiations that took place and that's where the pilot program emerged from, and that's what all the organizations got together with the Commissioner and established the pilot program from negotiations that resulted from the debate on the bill and it seemed that the way to do this would be to see what happened if you instituted it over a period of time, which is exactly what they did and found that there is no fiscal impact, minimal fiscal impact.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

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Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So through you, Mr. Speaker, for clarification for legislative intent, am I to consider here that the program is simply a pilot program but it did not define what the Legislature did intend or did not intend to do last year? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if I understand the question correctly, I'm not sure that I can say did it define or not define. What it led to was a negotiation process, which led to the pilot program, which led to the realization that there was minimal fiscal impact. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification. I think the word that I used was defy, not define. Would this change the answer of Representative Urban for this situation? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, does it defy? I think it does not change the answer. I don't think it defies what went on in the Chambers. I think it was merely a prologue to a discussion to bring that, to bring a pilot program forward to see if it could work with minimal fiscal impact.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, if this bill passes, would the program remain a pilot program or it will become a program that is effective throughout the State of Connecticut for the long term unless and until it is repealed.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, actually the purpose of this is to codify it. If we do not pass this

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legislation, it would not be codified. Through you,
Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend
the gratitude for Representative Urban for her work
and I appreciate her answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment
further? Will you remark further on the bill before
us? Representative Cook of the 65th.

REP. COOK (65th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, nice to see you
there.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Good afternoon, Representative.

REP. COOK (65th):

Well, I'm not from Waterbury, so I really don't
know if I can attest to what side of the River is
better. I'm sorry, Representative.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

You're north of the River.

REP. COOK (65th):

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I rise in strong support, okay, I missed that. I rise in strong support of this piece of legislation. Since in my five years here, we've worked diligently to ensure that the quality of early childhood education has remained on the forefront of this General Assembly.

We are in the process right now of working on an early childhood office and at the same time, we're trying to ensure the fact that what this bill does is make sure that our children that are participating in this program will not see a disruption in service as we move forward.

And as the gentle Chair had said a few moments ago, she has talked about changing the amount of weeks and that in fact, extends the eligibility within the amount of appropriations that we do already have.

And I urge all of my colleagues on the floor to go to the website on Care 4 Kids and it will tell you right there what we do. This is about families of low to moderate-income families that are working or are in school to get an education, to help them pay for their child care needs.

We are looking at the highest achievement gap that the State of Connecticut has ever seen, and what

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this program does is in fact, helps ensure that those children that might fall through the cracks are getting that education and having a little bit of assistance for their families who are actually giving back to the state and at the same time trying to better their families as a whole.

So as we stand here and listen to a debate on whether a piece of legislation may or may not have made it through the last Legislative Session, we all know how that happens. We know that we run out of time. We know that we might have things that didn't get straightened out. But we're here today to be able to make sure that a great piece of legislation is put into statute that secures the fact that our children that need assistance through their families that are trying to make good, are getting that assistance.

So I urge all of my colleagues to stand here and to secure the fact that we don't know what administration will be here in one year, two years or ten years, and so this simply makes sure that this program will. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative. Will you comment further on the bill before us? Will you remark

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further on the bill before us? Representative Ackert
of the 8th. Representative Ackert, please proceed.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm out of shape.
Through you, a question to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban, please prepare yourself.
Representative Ackert, please proceed.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

Thank you. And this would just help clarify how
this program works. Right now if it's, correct me if
I'm wrong to the good Chair, right now if an
individual is working. They're getting a certain
amount of income and let's say the Care 4 Kids Program
picks up 50 percent of the care at this time while
you're working.

Is that essentially how, in one for instance,
that the Care 4 Kids Program works? It helps with
covering the cost so that child can stay in the child
care?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

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Through you, Mr. Speaker, child care subsidies are allotted to families who have incomes under 50 percent of the state median level and then there are other categories that come into play. It has to do with what they can earn as far as the state minimum level of income to remain in the program and I don't have all those numbers in front of me, but I had a modicum of knowledge of how it works.

But it is based on a percentage as the good Representative said. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So essentially then, what this program, what this legislation would do would say that well now that income has been reduced and what this would allow then, because if the family lost their, does not have the income for those six weeks, that they would end up having less income, that this program would pick up the part that they could not cover during that span. Is that true?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

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REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I think there's sort of a different nuance there. The nuance is that if a woman is pregnant and she's not being paid and we don't have this program, then she will lose that child care spot.

Then in six weeks when she comes back to her job, because she'd had no child care now, she's not going to be able to go back to her job until she finds alternative child care.

So what this program does is keeps that child in child care for the six weeks while mom recovers from the pregnancy and then when she goes back to work, and it is only for a working mom, that's what the Care 4 Kids Program is, that working mom will then be able to go back to work assured that her child will stay where the child is in Care 4 Kids.

Without doing this, that spot would be gone because the child would not be there when the mom was taking that time off. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I guess I struggle with why a day care provider would, because the mom is pregnant, going to be on maternity leave, would say your slot's gone because you're, we're going to still get Care 4 Kids because they filed for that, but your income's gone.

So I guess the reason why it's the difference in the amount that they're making was to me, what would make the difference, and that's, I would think this would pick up the remainder of what she's not making.

So I guess I'm just trying to understand how this is working and I can understand. My wife was a day care provider for a decade, so I know how this works. I'm just struggling with that component. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you. Was that in the form of a question, Representative?

REP. ACKERT (8th):

If the good Chair would like to respond to my rambling, then that would be great.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Sure, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

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Do you care to respond?

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I think we're sort of in a discussion of semantics.

The yes, their cost of their child care is still covered, but the mom herself has no income while she is on this leave, so her income is cut, gone, but the child care is now sustained because of this pilot program.

And the answer to your question, how would anybody, you know, kick the child out, well, before we did this, that was how the policy was because there are slots and there are people waiting for them.

So until we tackled this issue and looked at what was going on with a pregnant mom who needed that six weeks to recover, she would have lost the spot for her child.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

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Representative Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8th):

And thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, and no further questions. I guess a comment. There has to be a dollar value for this. If the mom was paying a portion of that child care, say 50 percent, say 25 percent, and now to keep that slot we're increasing the state's allocation for the Care 4 Kids Program, there should be some number.

I'm not disputing the value of child care for a family, but there typically would be a number and I believe that's been stressed by a couple of my colleagues, so I'll listen to the dialogue.

So thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the good Chair for her answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative. Representative Ziobron of the 34th.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have several questions to the proponent of the bill, through you, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Please proceed, Representative.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

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Thank you. I don't think anyone here disputes the importance of caring for our children, but as a new Legislator, it was kind of shocking, really, to hear the line of questioning of my colleague Representative Sampson talk about legislation that was defeated but yet it still became a program. That just doesn't seem to follow common sense.

And my constituents must be wondering, if they're watching right now, how something that's defeated can yet come back as a pilot program and be instituted in the State of Connecticut? And it makes me really perplexed.

So I did some research as we were debating and I went into the Care 4 Kids Program website and it's very, very detailed. My first question, through you, Mr. Speaker, is, I'd like to know from the good Representative, how much does this program currently cost the State of Connecticut?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

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Through you, Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the good Representative. I do not have that number in front of me.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Well, I think it's an important question that we should have an answer to. Clearly, through, when you look at this website it is full of examples of invoices, payment procedures, samples to give documentation to a day care provider. They go on and on with all different kinds of forms that need to be filled out and returned. The Care 4 Kids Program actually gives you invoices to then get paid.

They have a very detailed payment schedule of when they're going to get paid to the day care provider.

So I would ask, through you, Mr. Speaker, who does have this information? How much is this costing the State of Connecticut, a law that was defeated, but yet has become a program? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

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Through you, Mr. Speaker, the fiscal note says that there is no, that there is minimal fiscal impact. A minimal fiscal impact means exactly that. It's too small to even mention. Therefore, the cost of the program has already been realized within the budget that we have had all along, so it's not costing the taxpayer any extra because they worked this out when they did the pilot program with the agencies that I mentioned before and realized that they could actually do this with a minimal fiscal impact so that it was not expanding any of the costs that are already incurred by the Department of Social Services. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to the good Representative, that was not my question. My question is, how much does the program currently cost, not the codifying of this bill, but how much does the original program cost?

Yes, I can understand why this bill has a minimum fiscal impact, but my question is, how much does this program cost the Connecticut taxpayer currently?

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Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I am not privy to that number while I'm standing here on the Floor of the House. Oftentimes when you're trying to look at these numbers and separate them out from a huge budget, it's difficult and that's one of the reasons why I have been a proponent of results-based accountability.

And if the, we will be drilling down on the Children's Report Card into various programs so that we can separate these out and find out exactly how much these programs are costing, but right now, I do not have that number in front of me.

And in essence, it is difficult because we don't run a program budget here, even though we think that sometimes we should be running a program budget, it's hard to get those numbers. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We talk a lot about data, data, data, data. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I

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don't know if I believe that looking at this website
for Care 4 Kids.

They have detailed accounting that's required to
participate in this program. There are forms here,
income guidelines, regulations, they give examples of
invoices.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, who would I contact as
a State Legislator to find out how much this program
costs the Connecticut taxpayer, a program that was
defeated, it seems, from the comments of my
colleagues, but yet somehow found its way onto the
books in the State of Connecticut?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. UBBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that
the good Representative talk to the Legislative
Liaison from DSS. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the good
Chairwoman for telling me where I can go to get the

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data that we always seem to talk about in this Chamber.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I have an additional question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Please proceed.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

The proponent talked about the need for this program because of pregnancy needing six weeks. But when I look at the website of this program, I also see something called Summer 2013 parent provider form. Is this a summer school program? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that program has nothing to do with this legislation currently in front of us. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate that answer, but my question was, does the Care 4 Kids

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Program, which was explained as a temporary program for six weeks of maternity leave, and maybe I misunderstood the good Representative, but it seems to me by reviewing their website, it also includes a possible summer program component.

And my question, through you, Mr. Speaker, is, is that an accurate representation of an additional program that the Care 4 Kids offers? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I am not privy to the summer program that she is referring to. I am privy to the program that we are referring to, which is the ability for someone who's having a baby to have six weeks of maternity leave and keep her child in day care.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, I'd like to understand why codifying this program now is so important to the viability of the Care 4 Kids

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Program. Why is this bill necessary in order to keep a program that seemingly through their own website is up and running. It looks like it's pretty detailed. It looks like it's covering a lot of bases.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, why is it important to have this program codified in the manner of this bill?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

When we look at a pilot program we look at it for its viability and its voracity and we are in fact, the policy establishing body of the State of Connecticut and when it rises to the level where we think it is appropriate that it be codified because we do have changes in administration, in the Executive. We do have changes in the economy, and this would allow this particular program to come back to us if there were changes that were suggested or changes that were needed. It is now within our statutes and codified.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Ziobron.

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REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, as a new Legislator, what I think I'm hearing, and I'd like to be corrected if I'm misinterpreting this is, if I were to present a program, some program, for me it's the environment.

If I found an environmental program that I thought was worthwhile, this Legislature said no, it's not worthwhile but we're going to then create a pilot program the following year and we're going to bring it into the deep regulations and we're going to get this program up and running, maybe adopt a state park program, for instance.

That program runs kind of under the radar of the Legislators and then a year later I can come back to this Legislature and ask for this program now to be codified. Now it becomes an existing program with our blessing.

Is that the process of a normal pilot program? Is that what I'm looking at here? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, certainly within this august Legislative Body, there are always negotiations going on and there are always Legislators who have tremendous ideas, and it's always available to you to bring the stakeholders together, to bring the advocates together, and to have LCO with you as you would negotiate something that you thought was worthwhile.

As a matter of fact, I do think that that's almost where almost all legislation starts, is with Legislators' good ideas.

And I would add as we go back to the bill initially, this bill was never voted on, so it was never voted down. It was voted on in the Senate and not in the House, and that's when we decided that it was time to negotiate, form a committee and examine how we could, in fact, we could bring this forward.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the good Representative for her answer.

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I think my constituents might be very surprised at the process for getting a project or a good idea into the state budget that costs them money without ever having to pass two sides of a Chamber. I certainly am surprised.

I think there's a lot of good ideas out there that this Chamber has. A lot of our Members have been here a long time and some new Members have ideas that are seemingly well intentioned and are good, feel good, you know, it feels great to help whatever it is your cause is, whether it's animals or kids or the environment.

And I would just say again, as a new Legislator, I just am a little taken aback that we could, in fact, not even debate a bill, not even bring forward a bill to this House and instead go to some very influential and smart advocacy groups and get a pilot program started that costs the taxpayers dollars and then a year later ask for it to be codified so we'll continue to pay for that program, no matter how well intentioned it is.

I'm not sure how I'm going to vote on this bill, Mr. Speaker, but I think my constituents would be very surprised to learn that in fact, their tax dollars are

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being spent without having legislation and a program debated and voted on at the House since it certainly seems like it was done so at the Senate level.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative. Representative Smith of the 108th.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few questions to the proponent of the bill, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SMITH (108th):

I was looking at Lines 91 through 99 of the bill, which talks about the eligibility requirements to participate in this program.

In Lines 94 to 95 it states to be eligible the recipient intends to return to work, and my question, through you, Mr. Speaker, is, what proof does one have to provide to show that she intends to return to work?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

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Through you, Mr. Speaker, was the question was intends to work to work? DSS has been asking that the woman verify that she intends to return to work and that has not been a problem in practice.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative. Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you for the answer. But my question is, what proof needs to be provided? Is there some type of documentation, some type of evidence, or is it just a verbal commitment, yes, I'd like to return to work.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, DSS has been using just that verification. But they do need to document that they would lose the job if they were out six weeks and did not return.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

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Thank you. So as I understand the answer, then, in order to qualify under this eligibility section of 91 through 99, Lines 91 through 91, through 99, the person seeking the payment or the six weeks, would have to provide to, well, first let me ask, to whom would they provide the verification or proof that they intend to return to work?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Social Services.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And what then is the Department of Social Services expected to receive from the employee? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the employee verifies that they intend to return

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to work and that has not been a problem for DSS. They need to be able to prove that if they did not have that child care slot that they would, if the loss of the child care slot would lose the job, and they have to commit to the child continuing to attend the program during the parent's leave of absence for a consistency for the child.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Mr. Speaker, thank you, and thank the gentle woman for her answers. I don't think I'm getting, making my point.

I understand there are other criteria in here that they have to abide by in order to recover under this program. But I think just looking at Subsection 1, where it says the recipient intends to return to work at the end of the unpaid leave, so in my mind, I'm trying to figure out well, if the recipient intends to return to work at the end of the unpaid leave, there has to be some type of verification of that, some type of documentation.

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And so far, I've heard that the verification needs to go to the Department of Social Services, but I'm not sure what verification is actually required. Is there something from the employer? Is it a statement from the employee? Handwritten? Typed up? Is it just a verbal communication, you know what? I'd really like to return to work and I think I'm going to do that.

So that's what I'm trying to drive at, Mr. Speaker, and through you, if I could get those questions answered.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, when asked, they indicated verbally and that has been the practice and DSS has not had a problem with that. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, and thank you for the answer. So what happens then if one were to say yes, intend to return to work, but after six weeks things change, they

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decide not to return to work, but in the interim the money has been paid out. What happens in that situation?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that child has received a little bit of continuity in their day care and some of the programs that take place in Care 4 Kids, but then unfortunately, that child will lose that spot.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, and thank you for the answer. So the penalty, I guess, if you want to call it that, and I'm not sure that we should, but it seems to me that if there was an indication that someone intends to return to work and then there is a decision after the six weeks not to return to work, the child who had continuity of those six weeks would then be pulled out of the day care. Is that what I'm hearing? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry, could you repeat the question. Someone was talking to me.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Could you please repeat the question for the good Representative, Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Sure, I'd be happy to. My question goes to, if there is a decision to partake in the program, an indication, yes, I'd like to partake in the program, and then a subsequent decision to decide, you now what? I really, I'm going to stay home with the child. I'm not going to go back to work. The consequence as I understood it before was that the child who had the benefit of staying in the program for six weeks will now lose that slot and I just want to verify that, that I'm accurate in that statement.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

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Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you. And I apologize in advance because I did not get a chance, even though the debate has been lengthy, to look at the entire bill, but I'm wondering if that language that we just talked about where the child would lose his slot, is that in the bill itself, and if so, if the good Chairman could point that out?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure of the exact place where that would occur within the bill, so at this point in time, no, I can't point it out to you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Fair enough. I guess my question will go, I just want to then verify that the statement made by the

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good Representative is accurate in the sense that there is some language somewhere in this bill that states that a child would lose the slot if in fact the mother decided after the six weeks to not go back to work.

Is that a fair summarization of the statement made by the Chair? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure of the question, yet again, which I apologize. But I would answer that the fact that someone would lose their slot is under not this particular bill, but in the current statute for Care 4 Kids. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you. And maybe that's why I didn't see it in here. So I was looking but I suspect if it's in statute somewhere else, it would apply to this bill as well and I just want to make sure that everybody understands what's happening here.

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So if there's money given out, six weeks is granted, a person decides after the fact, no, you now what? I'm not going to go back to work. I'm enjoying the time off and thank you very much, there is language in one of our current statutes that would say, well, as a consequence, or as a penalty, the child that was in the day care must be pulled out of that day care.

Is there a certain timeframe by which that would happen? Would it be immediately upon notice, because I'm not familiar with this area of the statutes. I'm just wondering how that actually works in practice?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the parent would be informed. I'm sure that there's a little bit of a lapse, but the child would have to leave the program.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

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Thank you. In terms of the money that was paid for the six weeks, if the person again decides, you know what? I'm not going back to work. Is there any type of language in this bill or in our current statutes that would require that money to be repaid? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, we are really dealing with very low to moderate-income people, so there is in fact no claw back. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you. And then this kind of addresses some of the questions, we kind of had this dialogue back and forth a little bit, but it goes to Section 2 where it talks about the recipient verifies the eligibility is needed to prevent the loss of a slot in a school-based program or licensed child care setting.

And again, my question goes to what verification is actually needed? What does one have to show or

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prove to satisfy Subsection 2? Through you, Mr.

Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

That would be written verification from the mom's employer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you. And I'm just wondering, if the mom's employer did actually give the verification, how would that verification from the employer satisfy that the eligibility is needed to prevent the loss of a slot in a school-based program?

I'm not sure how the employer would know that and again, it could be my ignorance of the law here, but if the good Chair could explain that to me.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, they would have to document from the child care provider that they would

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lose the slot and then document that the employer considers that that would be a problem for them if there was no child care.

I'm sorry that I flipped that on you. To the good Representative. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you. Listen, I get confused easily, so there's no need to apologize. I just wanted to make sure I understand the process.

But as I now understand your answer, it seems it's almost two-fold. One would be verification from the child care center as set forth in the bill as well as some type of verification from the employer, or is it just one?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it is, we need to document it from the child care provider that they will lose the slot if they are not participating in this program.

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Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

And thank you. So that makes much more sense to me that there would be some type of notice, some type of indication that yes, if in fact this program is not granted, the child would lose the slot in the day care.

And again, just to be sure for legislative purposes, the verification only needs to be verbal, or does that also, I shouldn't say also. Does that need to be in writing, that section, Subsection 2?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, my interpretation of documentation would be in writing.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

\DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you. And that would make more sense, too.

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Now, this could be in the other statutes, current law that we have that you referenced earlier. But if the slot is not held for the child, even though all the requirements are met here in Subsection 1 and 2 and 3, which we haven't gotten to yet, but if the slot is not held, what happens in that scenario? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, because the child is there, it would be pretty impossible not to hold the slot of the child is showing up every day, which is part of the requirements that the child be there consistently, so it would be not really possible and certainly would be a huge problem for us if DSS suddenly turned around and kicked the child out one day. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Yeah, I agree with you. That would be a problem and I hope that doesn't happen, and I was kind of thinking of a scenario that it could happen. You know

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how the mind wanders sometimes, but if the child was sick, for instance, where he or she was out of the day care for a week or two because of illness, and of course there wasn't the type of communication that you'd like to see from the mom or the dad to the day care center saying listen, little Joe is not feeling well and doesn't put the day care center on notice. Day care center is aware of the fact that mom is out and maybe out for a while based on her pregnancy and inadvertently or mistakenly, actually, fills the slot.

I don't know if the current statute deals with that? It doesn't seem to be dealt with under this bill and if the good Representative knows if that's a situation that has occurred or could occur if there's a provision for that?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would have to say that could not occur because there is a great deal of encouragement for the workers in Care 4 Kids to establish and engage parents in what is going on with their children.

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There are innumerable opportunities for meetings that in fact need to take place because the parent and the child, the parent of the child needs to know what is going on in the Care 4 Kids Program, so if some, the child was that ill that they could not attend there would be communication between the DSS worker and the parent.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And yeah, I suspect it's probably a rare situation and you know, that's unfortunately that's what, you know, we as lawyers get paid to think of all these scenarios that never actually, we hope they never actually happen, but in the event they do we're prepared for those.

I guess the last line of questions that I have, and I apologize in advance if they've been answered, but I missed some of the earlier questions. I'm not going to get into the whole program and whether, why it's here now and what we did last year. I heard that part of the testimony.

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But the Appropriations side and I understand, you said there's no cost to the state, so I understand that. I'm not going to ask you about that.

But I'm just wondering, different child care centers I imagine would charge different fees based on where they are and what they provide and so forth, so how is that dealt with in this bill? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this is our Care 4 Kids Program, it is consistent across the board and it is based on the income levels, which we refer to as the minimum level of income that is eligible for this, and it's based on a percentage.

So it's consistent throughout the program.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you. And you know, this is what happens when you ask a lot of these questions. You show your ignorance sometimes about these various programs,

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which I've just done, so I understand now that this is based probably on a, these day care centers are limited in what they may charge for a particular child who happens to go there. I guess that's what you said. I just want to verify that.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, maybe I can clarify that just a little bit more. It is based on the state median income, so then the scale would have to do with what was the state median income and at what percentage did we cut it off, so I think it's the same thing that you're saying.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Mr. Speaker, you've been kind to let me ask all these questions. I appreciate that. I appreciate the Chairwoman's responses and I'll continue to listen to the dialogue. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

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Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Representative Hoydick of the 120th.

REP. HOYDICK (120th):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Almost, well, good
afternoon still.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Good afternoon.

REP. HOYDICK (120th):

I rise in support of this legislation. I
supported it in Committee and intend to support it
today on the Floor, and just through you, a few
questions to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban, please prepare yourself.
Representative Hoydick, please proceed.

REP. HOYDICK (120th):

Thank you, sir. To the good Chairwoman of the
Children's Committee, I'd like to clarify a few
concepts that our colleagues have asked and one of
them was about payment or cost of this program.

This is a federal program, is it not?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

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Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, it is subsidized by the federal government, yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Hoydick.

REP. HOYDICK (120th):

Thank you very much for that answer. Similar to Head Start, similar to Public Housing, there is a sliding scale of eligibility. Is that not, through you, Mr. Speaker?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the good Representative is absolutely correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Hoydick.

REP. HOYDICK (120th):

Thank you, ma'am. I appreciate the answer. So if I qualify on the median income scale of 20 percent or 30 percent, that would be the amount of subsidy that I would receive from this program. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Hoydick.

REP. HOYDICK (120th):

Thank you so much. And I thank the kind
gentlewoman for her answers.

It's really imperative when we think about day
care providers, child care providers, nursery schools,
preschools, that there are costs incurred by those
businesses to maintain the status of the teachers and
whatever they're renting, and those costs need to be
paid even though someone is having another child and
may not have the income level to participate or pay
for that six weeks period that this program covers.

So in essence, we are stabilizing the economy, if
you think of it this way, through a federal grant
program that provides for moms who are having
children, to go back to work and have some place safe
for their children to be.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my
colleagues to support this bill. Thank you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, madam. Will you remark further on the bill before us? Will you remark further on the bill before us? Representative Case of the 63rd.

REP. CASE (63rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. I rise in support of this bill in front of us. There's over 40 to 50 organizations within the northwestern corner of my district that do utilize this. I made a few phone calls while the debate was going on and they really feel as though this is a great program for our communities and it seems to be working.

So I rise in support and look for my colleagues on the both sides to do the same. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Will you remark further on the bill before us?
Will you remark further on the bill before us?
Representative Buck-Taylor of the 67th.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, through you to Representative Urban. Can you tell me how long this maternity program has been in use in the state?
Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

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Yes, thank you. Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, two years of the pilot.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

And just so that I understand, through you, Mr. Speaker, this pilot program was initiated after the bill was introduced and not approved by the legislative bodies?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if I can correct. You know what, I think it was last year, either last year or two years ago. But what did happen is the bill was not brought up in the Senate and it was not brought up in the House, but it did make it through all the Committees to be brought up in the Senate or brought up in the House, and at that point in time the negotiations began, and that is when the pilot program was established, through the good works of the advocates and the Legislators and the Commissioner.

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Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, not having been here last year, a question to Representative Urban.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Please proceed.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Did this make its way through the Committee process? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, that was the reference that I was making. In order for it to get on the Calendar for the Senate, it had to go through the Committee process.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

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Through you, Mr. Speaker, is it accurate that it did not make it out of the Committee process and onto the House Floor? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. It's a process question. It did not get called in the Senate, and once it does not get called in the Senate, it's a Senate bill, so we do not call it in the House.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. We've heard some talk about needed these programs to be result based. May I inquire, through you, Mr. Speaker, as to how many people have used this maternity based program since it was instituted?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

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Through you, Mr. Speaker, we do not have those numbers at the moment. We know that it's a minimal fiscal impact, but I would certainly love to do this onto the Children's Report Card, and we will be meeting on programs that we'll be drilling down into in the Children's Report Card and this could very well be one of them.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Mr. Speaker, just so that I understand, through you, is the Representative Urban saying that we do not know how much this program costs, now do we know how many, if any, people used this program? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. We know that it's an expansion of what we are already doing and I am sure that if we talked to the Legislative Liaison we could get those numbers. But right now on this, on the Floor where I stand, I do not have those numbers in

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front of me. I only know that it is an expansion of the program with no significant fiscal impact and I would reference Representative Hoydick's comments and associate myself with them, because she made some wonderful points about why this is so important. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, just so that I understand the no fiscal impact aspect of this, to Representative Urban, what is the actual process and personnel that is required in order to make this program work?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

I'm not sure I understood that question. Was that a question of again, of the cost, because we have, OFA has already told us that it's almost impossible to break those numbers out, but maybe I'm answering the wrong question.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Buck-Taylor, could you please rephrase for the Representative.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. My question has to do with whether or not there were any costs associated with this program, not whether or not there were any additional costs associated with this program, with the assumption that personnel needs to be present in order for the program to work. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, there of course is an underlying cost to the Care 4 Kids. This is at the margin an addition, which they had first started as a pilot program to be sure that the addition of that six weeks for a mom who is pregnant would not have any, would have a minimal fiscal impact.

So yes, of course, there are workers involved, and workers who have been doing the Care 4 Kids Program and that's why we did the pilot to begin with, to see if that pilot would in fact, incur significant

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additional costs, which it in fact, did not. Through
you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, one of the other
questions that I have has to do with the testimony
that was provided already about this being a federally
subsidized program.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, are there any costs
that are incurred or subsidized by the state?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, there are, but it
comes under a block grant, so yet again it would be
difficult for that to be broken out. Through you, Mr.
Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, again going back to the
results based orientation that we would like to have

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around here, to Representative Urban, has there been any evidence as to how many people actually went back to work after the six weeks were expended? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

RPE. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, as this has been a pilot program, we are not privy to how many people took advantage of it and whether any of them did not return to work, but I would certainly think that if any of them did not return to work, that either I or the good Representative and Chair of Human Services would have been made aware of that.

And as I stated before, I think this would be a program that would be very interesting to do under results based accountability and the Children's Report Card, as we now have statutory authority to drill down into programs that we have in the State of Connecticut for children.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

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Through you, Mr. Speaker, I am also a new State Representative here and I listened to the testimony of Representative Ziobron and I listened to the testimony of Representative Sampson, and several things came to my mind.

One is, I feel like this Legislative Body was disrespected and this program was back-doored, even after it was not advanced through any of the Committees, and that is a concern that I have.

The second concern that I have, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we talk about a pilot program but we have no results, no evidence, no records, nothing showing us whether this pilot program was effective or that it was cost-effective. We don't even know if anybody took advantage of this program.

So based upon both of those issues, I am having some very, very strong concerns as to this program.

I do want to thank the Representative Urban for her hard work on this and all the other people's hard work on this, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for letting me speak.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative. You're always ready, willing and able to speak in this Chamber.

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Representative Noujaim from the other side of the River. For the second time.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

For the second time, Mr. Speaker. I would appreciate your indulgence to pose a question to Representative Urban for clarification because based on the answer, I will decide how I will vote on this piece of legislation.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to Representative Urban, I heard two statements. One of them said that this bill came before us and was defeated in this Chamber.

And then I heard again, that it did pass some other Committees, but it was never brought up here in this Chamber.

So essentially, in my opinion, if it was never brought up to this Chamber, then the conclusion is it was not defeated.

So I would like to know, what happened, for clarification and legislative intent two years ago?

Did this bill come through Committees to this Chamber, was voted upon, or it was not voted upon in this Chamber?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much for that question, because I do think it is critical that we clarify that.

The bill went through our Committee process. It was a Senate bill. It was on the Senate Calendar but it did not get called. Therefore, it was never in front of the House of Representatives. It was at that point in time that the advocates, the Commissioner, the Legislators got together and worked out this pilot program.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So am I to conclude, through you, Mr. Speaker, that this bill was not called for a vote neither in the upper Chamber nor in this Chamber?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Urban.

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REP. URBAN (43rd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the good Representative is absolutely correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the answer of Representative Urban's answer on this. Thank you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill before us? Will you remark further on the bill before us?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Will Members please take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll Call. Members to the Chamber, please.

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll Call. Members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

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Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members voted? Will the Members please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast.

If all the Members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take the tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, Senate Bill Number 887 in concurrence

with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	130
Necessary for Passage	66
Those voting Yea	123
Those voting Nay	7
Those absent and not voting	20

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 507.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, Calendar Page 25, Calendar Number 507, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, Substitute House Bill Number 6662 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECRUITMENT OF MONEYS OWED TO A UNIT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION DUE TO NONPAYMENT OF ASSESSMENTS.

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Calendar? Is there objection? Seeing none, the bill
will be placed on the Consent Calendar. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 34, Calendar 104 substitute for Senate Bill
number 833, AN ACT ADDRESSING THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF
CHILDREN, favorable report of the Committee on Human
Services. There is an amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Sir, a moment please. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President -- Madam President, if we might place
this item on the Consent Calendar and then if the
Senate might stand at ease for a moment before calling
the next item.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered. Sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, that
next item Calendar page 104, Calendar 105, Senate Bill
887 would also move to place that item on the Consent
Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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Seeing no objection, so ordered, Sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. If we might now call for a vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Sounds like a great idea. Senator -- Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a vote and -- and first read the Consent Calendar before I open the machine.

THE CLERK:

On page one, Calendar 454, Senate -- Senate Joint Resolution number 55, Calendar 455, Senate Joint Resolution number 56, on page two, Calendar 456, Senate Joint Resolution number 57, Calendar 470, House Joint Resolution number 5. Also --

THE CHAIR:

Ninety five, Sir. I think the House Joint Resolution is number 95.

THE CLERK:

It is indeed 95. Also on page two, Calendar 471, House Joint Resolution number 96, Calendar 472, House Joint Resolution number 97, on page ten, Calendar 230, Senate Bill 235, page 14, Calendar 283, Senate Bill number 963, on page 16, Calendar 311, Senate Bill 1118, also Calendar 315, Senate Bill 1078, on page 21, Calendar 367, Senate Bill 804, page 24, Calendar 395, Senate Bill 967, on page 33 Calendar 102, Senate Bill 822, page 34, Calendar 104, Senate Bill 833, and on page 34, Calendar 105, Senate Bill 887.

THE CHAIR:

At this time Mr. -- Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

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Thank you, Madam President. One item that needs to be removed from the Consent Calendar that is Calendar 104 -- page 34, Calendar 104. If that might be removed from the Consent Calendar and marked passed temporarily.

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THE CHAIR:

Seeing no -- seeing no objection, so ordered, Sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. And if the -- if we would -- might call for a -- a vote now on the other items marked consent.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, I will open the machine.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate in voting today's Consent Calendar. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer. Senator Meyer, would you like to vote on the Consent Calendar, Sir. No problem.

Have all members vote, all members have voted. The machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you call the --

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.

Total Number Voting 35

Necessary for Adoption 18

Those voting Yea 35

Those voting Nay 0

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SENATE

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May 1, 2013

Those absent and not voting 1

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam -- thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I believe the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agendas two and three for today's session.

THE CHAIR:

Senator -- Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agendas two and three both dated Wednesday, May 1, 2013. Copies have been distributed and are on Senators' desks.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move all items on Senate Agendas numbers two and three dated Wednesday, May 1, 2013 to be acted upon as indicated and that the Agendas be incorporated by reference in the Senate Journal and the Senate transcript.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, Sir. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, that will conclude our business for today. Before yielding the floor to members for announcements or points of personal privilege it's our intention to be in session