

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 14-132

HB5323

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VOL.57
PART 3
685 - 1026**

THE CLERK:

On page 11, House Calendar 114, Favorable Report of the joint standing Committee on Human Services, House Bill 5323, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHILD POVERTY AND PREVENTION COUNCIL.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative McGee. Good afternoon, sir; you have the floor.

REP. MCGEE (5th):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

I move for acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passing of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question is acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And to all of you in the House, the bill, this bill simply adds three members as well as their designees to the Child Poverty and Prevention Council; one, the Department of Housing Commissioner; two, the Department of Agriculture Commissioner, as well as the Executive Director of the Office of Early Childhood.

It also adds to the reporting requirements for budgeted state agencies that provide preventative services to children and our members of the council.

Additionally, to the existing requirements, the bill requires agency reports to the council and due by November 1, annually and to include a list of agency programs that provide prevention services; and, that is simply policies and programs that promote healthy, safe, and productive lives.

And, lastly, the agency expenditures will also be highlighted as well; so move passage.

A VOICE:

Move passage of the bill.

REP. MCGEE (5th):

Of the bill -- sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

I believe we've already moved passage of the bill.

REP. MCGEE (5th):

Oh, I'm sorry, Madam Speaker.

I would ask that the Clerk please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

mhr
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And Representative McGee, would that be LCO
Number 3402?

REP. MCGEE (5th):

Yes, ma'am.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 3402, which
will be designated as House Amendment Schedule "A."

THE CLERK:

House Amendment "A," LCO 3402, offered by
Representative Abercrombie, to the House Bill 5323, AN
ACT CONCERNING THE CHILD POVERTY AND PREVENTION
COUNCIL.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to
summarize the amendment. Is there objection to
summarization? Is there objection?

Seeing none, Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5th):

Madam Speaker, I move adoption.

I'm sorry, Madam Speaker, I'll get my things
together here, but I'd like to just summarize, and
that is basically this -- this amendment to the -- the
bill would actually allow for us to streamline what's
happening with this particular task, this committee,

mhr
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and allow for other agencies to add on to it. So I
move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of
House Amendment Schedule "A." Will you remark on
House Amendment Schedule "A?"

Representative Wood, on House "A?"

Would you care to remark further on House
Amendment Schedule "A?"

If not, let me try your minds for adoption of
House Amendment Schedule "A." All those in favor,
please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Opposed, Nay.

The Ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Would you care to remark further on the bill as
amended? Would you care to remark further on the bill
as amended?

Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I do stand in support of this bill. It does

streamline the reporting requirements and it also updates the membership of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council.

I did have a quick question to the proponent of the bill yet, bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. WOOD (141st):

Thank you.

Are there specific reports that we are looking for in terms of which reports are going to be coming to the council?

Through you, Madam Chair, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, can you please repeat the question?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Wood, would you mind repeating the question?

REP. WOOD (141st):

Sure.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

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Thank you.

REP. WOOD (141st):

It's on the amendment, a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters related to appropriations, human services, and children's. Are there a specific list of reports that we are looking for through this amendment?

Through you, Madam Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5th):

Through you, Madam Speaker.

It does not list specific reports on the particular amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141st):

Thank you.

I -- I still stand in support of this, but I do look forward to a concrete list of something that we can identify to look for in specific terms.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Thank you to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam.

Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

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

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please return to the Chamber immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast.

If so, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally.

A VOICE:

Oh, wait -- wait. Oh. Oh.

THE CLERK:

The machine is locked. You taking the tally?

A VOICE:

It's not locked here.

THE CLERK:

You need to lock the machine; you didn't lock it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Oh; I am now going to lock the machine.

And now will the Clerk please take a tally.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Bill Number 5323, as amended by House "A."

Total number voting	146
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Necessary for passage	74
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Those voting Yea	146
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Voting Nay	0
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Absent not voting	3
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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill as amended passes.

Are there any announcements? Are there any
announcements?

Representative Joe Serra, of the 33rd; you have
the floor, sir.

REP. SERRA (33rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, today this Chamber is going to
honor a person that has all touched our lives over the

pat/gbr
SENATE

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Thank-you, Mr. President. Moving to Calendar Page 6 where there are several items, the first, Calendar 341, House Bill 5117. Move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Also Page 6, Calendar 338, House Bill 5323, move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Calendar 344, House Bill 5442, move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Also, Madam President, Mr. President, Calendar 334, House Bill 5339, move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President, and also on Calendar Page 6, Calendar 336, House Bill 5056, move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

pat/gbr
SENATE

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May 7, 2014

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. One additional item to place on the Consent Calendar at this time. It's Calendar Page 25, Calendar 562, Substitute for House Bill Number 5466. I move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Now, Madam President, if the Clerk would list the items on the Consent Calendar so we might proceed to a vote.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

We have items from previously adopted Senate Agendas, House Bill 5525, Senate Bill 152, House Bill 5528, House Bill 5311.

On Calendar Page 5, Calendar 327, House Bill 5099.

Also on Page 5, Calendar 330, House Bill 5441.

On Page 6, Calendar 341, House Bill 5117.

Calendar 338, House Bill 5323.

Calendar 344, House Bill 5442.

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SENATOR LOONEY:

If we might pause for just a moment to verify a couple of additional items.

Madam President, to verify an additional item, I believe it was placed on the Consent Calendar and Calendar Page 30, on Calendar Page 30, Calendar 592, Substitute for House Bill 5476.

THE CHAIR:

It is, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

It is on? Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. If the Clerk would now, finally, Agenda Number 4, Madam President, Agenda Number 4 one additional item ask for suspension to place up on Agenda Number 4 and that is, ask for suspension to place on the Consent Calendar an item from Agenda Number 4.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President, and that item is Substitute House Bill Number 5566 from Senate Agenda Number 4.

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

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Will you please call for a Roll Call Vote on the Consent Calendar. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

An immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate.

pat/gbr
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An immediate Roll Call on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Consent Calendar Number 2.

Total number voting	36
Necessary for adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Two additional items to take up before the, our final vote on the implementer. If we might stand for just, for just a moment.

The first item to mark Go is, Calendar, to remove from the Consent Calendar, Calendar Page 22, Calendar 536, House Bill 5546. If that item might be marked Go.

And one additional item, Madam President, and that was from Calendar, or rather from Agenda Number 4, ask for suspension to take it up for purposes of marking it Go, that is House Bill, Substitute for House Bill 5417. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

**JOINT
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there questions? I guess there are no further questions then.

DON CLAYBACK: Okay.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Thank you. Oh do you? I asked them all. Boy it's a good day. Thank you very much for your testimony. We appreciate it.

Our next speaker is Anne Foley. Good afternoon.

ANNE FOLEY: Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie, and members of the Human Services Committee. I'm Anne Foley, Undersecretary at the Office of Policy and Management and I'm here today in my capacity as Chair of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council to ask for favorable action on House Bill 5323, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHILD POVERTY AND PREVENTION COUNCIL.

So the Child Poverty Council was created in -- in 2004 to develop and promote a plan to reduce child poverty in the state. And then two years later it was merged with the Prevention Council. And so as part of our prevention activities we produce a report annually on the funding of prevention services in the state with detailed information about prevention services provided by state agencies.

So in addition to that, separately, current law requires that the Governor include a prevention report in the Governor's biannual budget document and the production of that report requires significant state resources and is duplicative of the reporting efforts performed by the council that I just outlined. So what this bill seeks to is to consolidate the requirements of the Governor's prevention report into the annual report by the council.

So there's three main reasons that we're doing this. First of all, the -- we think that a separate biannual prevention report is unnecessary and duplicative. And what we've done in the bill is streamline both the reporting frequency, making this an annual report, and also including all of the pertinent data from the prevention report into a more comprehensive council report.

The second reason is that the -- the Governor's report is really reporting on what the Governor's proposing. It's not providing information on what we're actually spending on prevention services in the state. So we think that it's much more useful information to depict the actual investment that the state's making in prevention services.

And finally, the original intent of the prevention report in the Governor's biannual budget was to raise the level of awareness and importance of primary prevention programs. And so we think that it makes sense for the prevention data required in a prevention report to be collected, analyzed, and discussed through the Child Poverty and Prevention Council, which is really a forum for interagency collaboration on prevention initiatives.

So that's one provision in the bill. The other provision in the bill is that the bill adds the agency heads of the Department of Housing, the Department of Agriculture, and the Office of Early Childhood or their designees to the council. And those recommendations were -- were put forward by the council at their -- at their most recent meeting.

So I'd like to thank Representative Zupkus is

here with us today for her participation as a member of the council and I want to thank you all for raising the bill for us and ask that you act favorably on the bill. And I can answer any questions that you have.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG: Thank you very much and thank you for the work as the Chair of this council. So does anybody have any questions?
Representative Zupkus.

REP. ZUPKUS: Great. Thank you Madam Chair. And I just wanted to say thank you for coming because it does do good work, that council, and I'm glad to be a part of it. And anytime we can curtail duplication and -- that's a good thing. And, you know, adding these people on I think will really expand and make it even for a better council. So thank you for coming and I encourage my colleagues to support that. Thank you so much.

REP. ABERCROMBIE: Thank you.

Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD: Just briefly. Thank you always for your good perspective and fairness on dealing with so many things and educating us. So I always appreciate that. And I agree with Representative Zupkus on eliminating the duplication and expanding the council make a lot of sense. So I look forward to supporting this. Thank you.

ANNE FOLEY: Thank you so much.

REP. ABERCROMBIE: Any further questions?

Thank you very much. We appreciate your time.

ANNE FOLEY: Okay.

REP. ABERCROMBIE: Now we'll be going back to the public portion and just to -- so people realize, when the public does come up they are limited to three minutes. We do appreciate when you hear the bill -- when you hear the buzzer going off to round up your comments.

With that, Ed Mambruno. Followed by Nancy Shaffer.

Good afternoon sir. Thank you for being here.

ED MAMBRUNO: Good afternoon, Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie. My name is Ed Mambruno. I'm the independent ombudsman for the Department of Developmental Services. I also am a Commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, a position I've held since 2001.

I'm here to support passage of Complex Rehab Technology Bill 325. This important legislation needs to be passed so that people with disabilities get the specialized equipment that they need. CRT is an important piece of legislation because many disabled individuals need specialized wheelchairs that are fit for their needs and not just some standardized wheelchair that's off the rack, if you will.

As ombudsman for the department, I serve as an advocate for all individuals with an intellectual disability. Many consumers have a medical condition that warrants individually designated equipment to meet their specific needs.

I also understand that this bill, which many people have said will increase \$3.7 million is a small price to pay when you're thinking that a standardized wheelchair can, in effect, cost

**JOINT
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2014



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Public Hearing Testimony
Human Services Committee
March 4, 2014



HB5323

Proposed H.B. No. 5135 AN ACT PREVENTING THE CLOSURE OR RELOCATION OF CHILD WELFARE OFFICES IN HIGH NEED AREAS.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) offers the following comments regarding Proposed H.B. No. 5135, An Act Preventing the Closure or Relocation of Child Welfare Offices in High Need Areas.

DCF currently leases office space in 16 locations. These include our 15 area offices where we provide direct services for clients and one satellite office that houses certain DCF Central Office functions. The number of cities and towns served by a particular office ranges from one or two (New Haven and Meriden) to twenty-three (Torrington). Below is a listing of these leased office locations:

- 100 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport
- 131 West Street, Danbury
- 250 Hamilton Street, Hartford
- 364 West Middle Turnpike, Manchester
- One West Main Street, Meriden
- 2081 South Main Street, Middletown
- 38 Wellington Road, Milford
- One Grove Street, New Britain
- One Long Wharf Drive, New Haven
- 149 Water Street, 2nd Floor, Norwalk
- Two Courthouse Square, Norwich
- 401 Shippan Avenue, Suite 2, Stamford
- 62 Commercial Boulevard, Torrington
- 395 West Main Street, Waterbury
- 322 Main Street, Willimantic
- 55 West Main Street, Meriden (Central Office Satellite)

Most of these offices have leases with five year terms, although many have renewal options. In any given year, DCF asks the Department of Administrative Services to initiate lease proposals for two or three of our offices based on expiring leases or changing space needs. We request that the offices meet our space needs, parking and security requirements and require that the premises be accessible to individuals with disabilities and public transportation. It is DAS' responsibility to solicit leasing proposals and finalize the terms of any lease agreements with landlords.

While we can appreciate the intent of this legislation to encourage the siting of DCF offices in the communities with the highest concentration of cases in a given services area, there are also geographic considerations that should be taken into account. We are also concerned that enacting legislation that may limit the number lease proposals submitted to DAS will make it more difficult for the state to competitively procure real estate and possibly increase leasing expenses.

H.B. No. 5323 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHILD POVERTY AND PREVENTION COUNCIL

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) supports H.B. No. 5323, An Act Concerning the Child Poverty and Prevention Council (CPPC). This bill adds three new members, the Commissioners of Housing and Agriculture and the Executive Director of the Office of Early Childhood, to the council and consolidates duplicative reporting requirements.

Biennially, every agency that provides prevention services to children, youths, and families has to provide to the Office of Policy and Management: (1) a list of agency and programs that provide prevention services; (2) the actual prevention services expenditures for the fiscal year preceding the biennium, by program; and (3) the estimated prevention services expenditures for the first fiscal year of the biennium. This information is then used to create a prevention report that is produced simultaneously with the Governor's biennial budget. The provision of this information, especially during the development of a two-year budget, is administratively burdensome to our department, and duplicative of similar reporting requirements that we perform through the CPPC. This bill streamlines the requirements of the Prevention Report and the CPPC report, which will eliminate duplicative and unnecessary reporting requirements, and allow DCF to direct staff time toward work that directly benefits Connecticut children and families.



Evonne M. Klein
Commissioner

Department of Housing

Connecticut
still revolutionary

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
3/4/2014

Evonne Klein, Commissioner
Department of Housing

House Bill No. 5323

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHILD POVERTY AND PREVENTION COUNCIL

Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding House Bill 5323 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHILD POVERTY AND PREVENTION COUNCIL.

The Department of Housing (DOH) fully supports House Bill No. 5323, specifically the inclusion of DOH in the Child Poverty and Prevention Council. The council is charged with developing and promoting the implementation of a ten-year plan to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the state by fifty percent, as well as establishing prevention goals, recommendations, and measure prevention service outcomes in order to promote the health and well-being of children and families. DOH looks forward to collaborating with council members to achieve this commendable goal, which is in line with the agency's mission to ensure that all of Connecticut's citizens have access to safe, affordable housing, and enabling very-low-, low- and moderate-income individuals and families to live in communities where quality employment, schools, necessary services and transportation are accessible.

DOH also supports the streamlining of duplicative reporting requirements through the consolidation of the Governor's prevention report with the Council's annual report. The development and production of the prevention report is administratively burdensome as it requires a significant time commitment from both state agencies and OPM staff. As the Council already produces a report annually detailing the prevention program administered by state agencies, and this bill includes in that report pertinent data collected from the prevention report, it is no longer necessary for additional resources to be expended in producing a separate prevention report.

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March 4, 2014 Public Hearing Testimony before the
Connecticut General Assembly Human Services Committee

HB 5323: Proposed Changes to the Child Poverty and Prevention Council

Distinguished Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, Ranking Members, and Members, my name is Rhonda Evans, Deputy Director of the Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc. (CAFCA). I am here to express our support to update the membership of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council and consolidate reporting provisions relating to state prevention efforts.

By way of background, CAFCA is the state association for Connecticut's eleven (11) Community Action Agencies (CAAs). CAAs are the state and federally designated agencies tasked with alleviating the conditions and causes of poverty. Our network serves all 169 cities and towns and utilizes a Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework to report outcomes. We collaborate across silos with state government and other nonprofit providers and businesses to help families avoid financial crisis as well as empower people with job training, energy assistance, child care, and other vital supports to reach economic self-sufficiency. In many instances we serve as a single point of response and triage for families. Our agencies administer an early intervention strategy approach through a variety of programs and services to efficiently and effectively reach families in the best way possible. We provide support, assistance and renewal for families when other support services have ended and, in doing so, we serve more than 360,000 people annually in each and every part of the state.

As you may know, the Child Poverty and Prevention Council (CPPC) was created and charged with developing and promoting the implementation of a ten-year plan to reduce the number of children living in poverty in Connecticut by 50%. In addition, the CPPC was tasked with establishing prevention goals and recommendations as well as measure prevention service outcomes in order to promote the health and well-being of children and families in our state. CPPC membership spans across those state agencies that have a stake in the outcome of these goals, and that play a vital role in achieving them.

The proposed addition of Housing, Agriculture, and the Office of Early Childhood Education membership to the council will prove to be an asset to the council's ten-year plan success in many ways. Connecticut's CAAs know firsthand how poverty affects children in all parts of the state, and extending membership to these agencies will help the council to more effectively reach this vulnerable population and achieve what it was set out to do. The three proposed additional agency reporting requirements will also further enhance the efforts of the CPPC. By requiring state agencies to report their anti-poverty information to the CPPC and, in turn, have the Council issue its report based on its goals, eliminates the duplication of two reports and increases the importance of the Council by making it the issuing authority.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you and the Administration to even more effectively support Connecticut's low-income children and their families as they continue to face economic challenges in this great state.

- Family engagement
- Head Start collaboration
- Early childhood special education (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B, Section 619)

It is appropriate that the Office of Early Childhood has a seat on the Child Poverty and Prevention Council, given the agency's focus on improving socio-emotional and learning outcomes for low-income young children with high needs. The data shows that Connecticut has much work to do to reduce child poverty rates.

The United States Census Bureau estimates that the birth to age five population in Connecticut is 235,602. We estimate that some 79,000, or 34 percent, of the children in this age group live in low-income households. This estimate is based upon the number of children eligible for and participating in the state's Medicaid/CHIP program, Healthcare for Uninsured Kids and Youth (HUSKY). The figure was validated by examining the reported number of children from birth to age five who are eligible for free and reduced priced lunch, both of which are indices for poverty. The state also has a significant number of special populations of children with high needs, including roughly 9,142 children with disabilities or development delays and 13,665 who are English Language Learners. Factoring in the overlap between low-income and special populations, we conservatively estimate that there are 80,000 children with high needs in the state.

As the research shows, it is critical to invest in the earliest years of a child's life, particularly for low-income children with high needs. Investing early in the care, education, and support of young children has powerful impacts far into the future: it prepares a young child for early learning and school success, contributes to a well prepared workforce, reduces criminal justice costs, and strengthens the fabric of families and communities.

The Office of Early Childhood also supports consolidating two reports currently required by statute into one report. Current law requires that the Governor include a prevention report within the Governor's biennial budget. The production of this report requires significant state resources and is duplicative of similar reporting efforts performed by the Child Poverty and Prevention Council. In the state's continued effort to streamline government, promote efficiencies, and eliminate redundancy, this proposal seeks to consolidate the requirements of the Governor's prevention report into the annual report produced by the Child Poverty and Prevention Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 5323.



State of Connecticut
Office of Early Childhood



Office of Early Childhood
Testimony before the Human Services Committee
H.B. 5323 – An Act Concerning the Child Poverty and Prevention Council
Myra Jones-Taylor, Ph.D., Executive Director
March 4, 2014

The Office of Early Childhood submits testimony in support of H.B. 5323 – An Act Concerning the Child Poverty and Prevention Council. This bill would add the executive director of the Office of Early Childhood as a member of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council. We support this change in membership to the Council and I look forward to participate as an active member in the critical work that lies ahead to reduce child poverty in Connecticut.

The Office of Early Childhood, established by Governor Dannel Malloy through Executive Order #35 on June 24, 2013, brings together early childhood programs spread across four state agencies into one agency. A separate bill introduced this session in the Education Committee would codify the Office of Early Childhood and lay out in detail the charge of the Office to ensure that low-income young children are ready for school and lifelong success.

The centralized accountability of the Office allows for a concerted focus on children from birth to age five through unified services, policy, budget, data, and outcome measurement. This governance structure allows Connecticut to implement its bold early childhood reform by accomplishing the following:

1. Improved outcomes for young children through better access and unified quality
2. Streamlined information for parents
3. Coordination across programs and services
4. Alignment of efforts to promote all aspects of child development
5. Efficiencies to avoid duplication and provide better value
6. Accountability for results and the quality and equitable distribution of programs

The early childhood services that have been transferred or will transfer into the OEC encompass:

- Workforce development
- Program quality and improvement
- Standards curriculum and assessment
- State grants and subsidies for early care and education, state-funded Head Start
- Child Care Development Funds
- Child care licensing
- Home visiting

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

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page 4, line 24

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 4, 2014

*Anne Foley, Chair
Child Poverty and Prevention Council*

Testimony Supporting House Bill No. 5323

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHILD POVERTY AND PREVENTION COUNCIL

Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bill No. 5323, An Act Concerning the Child Poverty and Prevention Council.

The Child Poverty and Prevention Council, created in 2004, is tasked with the development and promotion of a ten-year plan to reduce the number of children living in poverty in state. The Council also produces a report annually on the state's progress in prioritizing expenditures for the funding of prevention services, including: a summary of measurable gains made toward child poverty and prevention goals; examples of successful interagency collaborations to meet child poverty and prevention goals; recommendations for prevention investment and budget priorities, with consultation with experts and providers of services to children and families; and agency reports detailing prevention services provided by the agency.

Current law requires that the Governor include a prevention report in the Governor's biennial budget document. The production of this report requires significant state resources and is duplicative of the reporting efforts performed by the Council. In our continued effort to streamline government, promote efficiencies, and eliminate redundancy, this bill seeks to consolidate the requirements of the Governor's prevention report into the annual report produced by the Council. The Council's production of this report makes the separate biannual prevention report unnecessary and duplicative. The proposal streamlines both the reporting frequency (annually) and submission date (January 1st) of the two reports, and includes the pertinent data from the prevention report into the more comprehensive Council report.

Under current law, the prevention report requires all agencies that provide prevention services to report estimated prevention services expenditures based on the Governor's budget. Reporting the information in this way does not accurately depict the actual investment the state is making in prevention services. Requiring this information,

instead, to be reported based on actual expenditures on an annual basis through the Council report will provide a more accurate and useful picture of the prevention services implemented within the state.

Finally, the original intent of the prevention report in the Governor's biennial budget was to raise the level of awareness and importance for primary prevention programs. This work is currently being accomplished through the Child Poverty and Prevention Council, which provides a forum for interagency collaboration on prevention initiatives, establishes prevention goals and recommendations, and measures prevention service outcomes. As such, it makes sense for the prevention data required in the prevention report to be collected, analyzed, and discussed in this setting, rather than produced separately in a report that does not seem to be fully utilized. In the four prevention reports the Office of Policy and Management has produced, the agency has not received any formal inquiries regarding its contents.

This bill also adds the agency heads of the Department of Housing (DOH), Department of Agriculture (DoAg), and the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), or their designees, to the Council. These additions were recommended by the Council at their November 19, 2013 meeting to reflect the creation of DOH and OEC as new state agencies and DoAg's jurisdiction over certain federal nutritional programs.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony, and I respectfully request that the Committee act favorably on this bill.