



The Connecticut Association for Human Services
110 Bartholomew Avenue · Suite 4030
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
www.cahs.org

Michael Rohde, President
James P. Horan, Executive Director
860.951.2212 x 235
860.951.6511 (fax)

Testimony before the Select Committee on Children Re: H.B. 5708

My name is Sherry Linton, the Early Care and Education Policy Analyst of Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS), which is dedicated to ending poverty in Connecticut and ensuring that all families have the tools they need to achieve economic security. **I am here to testify in favor of H.B. 5708, concerning the expansion of Care 4 Kids, to include individuals who are attending higher education institutions.**

- First, I would like to thank the Committee for raising this bill in acknowledgement of the need to expand the child care subsidy program to include those attending institutions of higher education. As we are well aware, education is a vehicle out of poverty and the importance of post secondary education in our efforts to reduce poverty can not be overemphasized. It is imperative that participation in higher education become more accessible in order to create a paradigm shift for low income families. The expansion of Care 4 Kids to include those attending higher education institutions would create that bridge for low income families to access post secondary education.
 - Higher education is directly linked to improved earnings outcomes and reduction of dependence on public assistance. Consequently, higher education is a route to long term self-sufficiency. Nearly two out of three, (63%), of the 18.9 million jobs that will be created between 2004 and 2014 are projected to be filled by individuals with at least a bachelor's degree. 90% of the fastest growing jobs in the United States require some level of secondary education or training. (1)
 - Women who earn four year college degrees increase their annual incomes most significantly. In 2001, Latinas with bachelor's degrees earned a median weekly income of \$676, compared to \$467 with an associate's degree and \$406 with a high school diploma. African American women with bachelor's degrees earned a median weekly income of \$692, compared to \$502 with an associate's degree and \$395 with a high school diploma. White women with bachelor's degrees earned \$744 weekly, compared to \$579 with an associate's degree and \$453 with a high school diploma. (2)
 - According to the American Economic Review, earnings increase 6-16% annually for every year of education and 4-7% in hourly wages with additional years of college. As the State is well into its timeline of reducing child poverty by 2014, it is vital that we increase families' access to the tools necessary for greater earning power.
1. Center for Women Policy Studies, citing US Department of Commerce, the Census Bureau. (2001) Years of school completed by people 25 years old and over, by age, household relationship and poverty status: 2000. Current Population Survey, March Supplement, <http://www.census.gov/hhes>.
 2. Center for Women Policy Studies, citing the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2002). Median usual weekly earnings of full-time salaried workers 25 years ad over by sex, race, Hispanic origin, and educational attainment, annual averages 1979-2001. Current Population Survey.

