

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6186

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL RECORDS PERTAINING TO PRENATAL

Title: CARE AND MANDATED REPORTS.

Vote Date: 3/6/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/6/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Kai J. Belton, 100th Dist.

Rep. Laurie Sweet, 91st Dist.

Rep. Sarah Keitt, 134th Dist.

Rep. Trenee McGee, 116th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

HB 6186 clarifies the scope of what is included in medical records regarding prenatal care by a mandated reporter. Prenatal care in this instance would include positive or negative substance tests or other medical reports involving the pregnancy.

This bill seeks to protect against unneeded intervention by DCF or the Courts against the mother who in these instances would be having her privacy violated and or violation of HIPAA. In specific cases where the substance use is impacting the baby, the mandated reporter is fully capable of sharing information without the need to violate the mother's privacy.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[CCAR, Director of Recovery Advocacy, Rebecca Allen](#): supports this bill as a mother in recovery and as a professional working in the field of recovery. She notes the stigma attached to addiction and the fear of seeking medical care while pregnant because of it. Ensuring medical records remain private will help to break down barriers and create healthier mothers and babies.

[Connecticut Voices for Children, Policy Associate, Carmen Clarkin](#): supports this bill and adds that including prenatal information in reports discourages not incentives care for the mother. Adds that this disproportionately impacts minority communities on an explicit and implicit basis. They urge passage of the bill.

[Middletown Community Health Center, Amy Gagliardi](#): supports this bill and believes it will support the rights of privacy for folks before and after pregnancy. She adds that the report can be used against the mother regardless of their ability to parent.

[Attorney, Karolyn Ryan Papacoda](#): supports this bill and invokes the conversations they've had with lawmakers, non-profits, and midwives about dissemination of prenatal records and the negative consequences it can have. She includes data on DCF investigations target black families more than white families. Finishes with the facts that pregnant women should have the same assurance of privacy as other Connecticut Citizens.

[MPH, Ashley Starr Frechette](#): supports this bill and references their time at the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence and adds they have seen firsthand the effects of mothers testing positive for legal or illegal substances. And says that the reports cannot substantiate a claim of abuse or neglect. And says that these reports can be used later in completely separate cases involving DCF.

[Attorney, Rachael Levine](#): supports this bill and adds that mothers have the right to privacy and protection by HIPAA.

[Growing Minds Academy, Director, Jamie Torns](#): supports this bill, and reminds the importance of privacy.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Connecticut Hospital Association](#): opposes the bill as drafted as it introduces uncertainty into statutory child abuse and neglect obligations. They add that the bill amends 17a-101d but does is no clear on how it would affect other requirements on mandated reporters; continues citing other sections that would be in conflict. They add that they are ready to work with DCF and the committee to address the concerns.

Reported by: Christian Talarski

Date: 3/11/25