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Committee on Children
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

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Bill No.:	HB-6900
Title:	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND PERINATAL DEPRESSION SCREENING TOOLS AND DATA SHARING SYSTEMS.
Vote Date:	2/18/2025
Vote Action:	Joint Favorable
PH Date:	2/13/2025
File No.:	

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill proposes creating a task force to evaluate the current practices and recommend improvements in child development assessments and perinatal depression screenings for children from birth to the age of three. The task force will include stakeholders, healthcare professionals and policymakers.

The purpose is to address the disparities within the current procedures of child development assessments, perinatal depression screenings and data sharing.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Commissioner, Beth Bye](#) supports this bill and is willing to partner and serve on the task force to help yield better insight, identify existing needs, gaps in service and data sharing.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Connecticut Cradle to Career Coalition, Policy and Civic Engagement Director, Kathleen Callahan](#) supports this bill and urges including consideration of common child identifier as part of the recommendations. A statewide child identifier, modeled after Minnesota's MARSS would allow seamless tracking of developmental screenings, referrals and interventions.

National Alliance on Mental Illness, Public Policy Manager, Thomas Burr supports this bill to explore better systems, treatments and outcomes for mothers suffering from postpartum depression.

359 At Connecticut Data Collaborative, Lead Consultant, Allison Logan supports the bill but makes requests for language modifications.

Connecticut APRN Society, Dr. Christina Mukon supports this bill but recommends the addition of APRN's specifically to participate. This would leader to stronger representation of clinical expertise and increase the pool of possible participants.

Connecticut Hospital Association, Anonymous supports this bill but recommends the inclusion of hospital representatives on the task force.

UConn University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service, Bethanne Vergean supports this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anonymous, Anonymous opposes this bill due to the government overreach in medical care. Stating the potential of data collection misuse and breaches, and lack of respect of parental rights, privacy, and individual medical choices.

Dr. Linda Dalessio opposes this bill due to privacy violations through data collection.

Reported by: Nicole Chambrello   **Date: 02/21/2025**