

Appropriations Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7263

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL

Title: HEALTH POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Vote Date: 4/24/2025

Vote Action: JOINT FAVORABLE

PH Date: 4/3/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Appropriations Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill expands the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee (TCB) by adding two members with expertise in youth substance use disorders. The goal is to ensure that the committee's scope of work and resulting recommendations reflect the full spectrum of pediatric behavioral health needs, including appropriate attention to substance use.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None offered

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Darcy Lowell, MD- Developmental Pediatrician](#)

Supports HB 7263 with the request of adding 2 additional members to TCB Committee- 1) Expert in early childhood mental health, and 2) Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician

[Chris Senecal- Senior Public Policy Officer- Hartford Foundation](#)

Supports this bill adding new members providing care for youth substance abuse and the addition of the Behavioral Health Advocate to the TCB Committee.

Emily Bohmbach- Senior Project Manager- Tow Youth Justice Institute

Recognizes that the additions to the TCB Committee will ensure a diverse range of perspectives to the committee that will help promote sustainable and effective policy change.

Senator Ceci Maher- Chair- Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee

Strongly supports the additional membership to TCB Committee in order to enact meaningful policy change.

Dr Jeffrey Vanderploeg- President- CEO- Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI)

Supports HB 7263 in order to improve the behavioral health workforce.

Lucia Shen- Master of Public Health Candidate- Yale School of Public Health

Sighting Connecticut's 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data indicating an increased behavioral health crisis among teens and increased rate of substance abuse, she supports HB7263 as continuing to build a behavioral health system that reflects the whole spectrum of challenges facing children in Connecticut.

Maureen Flanagan- supports HB 7263 as a former Juvenile Probation Supervisor, Ms Flanagan testifies to the need for a robust behavioral health system for youth in Connecticut.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None offered

Reported by: Chris Reddy

Date: April 30, 2025