

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5486 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING A DIAPER PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/19/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/10/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This legislation would provide state funding that allows diapers to be distributed to needy families. In doing so, it will benefit the health and well-being of children and their families.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Department of Social Services, Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner](#) expressed that the department cannot support the bill because it would incur costs that were not in the governor's budget. The department would have to take on the administrative costs of the program and create reports for the legislature, which is something they can't do at this time, although they support the concept.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Kids Play Museum, Employee](#) supports this bill because the Diaper Bank became a resource for her and her daughter during a difficult period of time. She also expressed that clean diapers contribute to the overall health of babies.

[Fairfield County Community Foundation, Mendi Blue Paca, President & CEO](#)

[CT Maternal and Child Health Coalition, Marijane Carey, Consultant](#)

[Madonna Place, Nathaniel Colome, Program Manager](#)

[Bristol Hospital, Julie Dinice, Registered Nurse](#)

[Timothy Gabriele](#)

[The CT Catholic Public Affairs Conference, Christopher Healy, Executive Director](#)

[Fair Haven Community Health Care, Ashton Hurd, Director of Programs](#)

[Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Carolyn Alessi, Regional Director of Community Health and Well Being](#)
[Nancy Stolfi Lundy](#)
[Child and Family Guidance Center, Tasiana Mesidor, Community Support Navigator](#)
[Mount Bethel Missionary Baptist Church Diaper Distribution Center, Tracye Penn, Volunteer Assistant](#)
[Connecticut Voices for Children, Ruchi Sheth, Research & Policy Associate](#)
[Michele Sok](#)
[The Diaper Bank of Connecticut, Janet Stolfi Alfano, CEO](#)
[CONEVT, Meg Bloom](#)
[Plainfield Public Schools, Paul Brenton, Superintendent of Schools](#)
[Middlesex Health, Vincent G. Capece, Jr, President and CEO](#)
[Connecticut Hospital Association](#)
[Brooke Conley, Therapist and Social Worker](#)
[Not Just Us, Brian Donahue, Founder](#)
[CT Association for Community Action, Rhonda Evans, Executive Director](#)
[UConn Health](#)
[The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity](#)
[Greater Hartford Gives Foundation](#)
[Judy Lederer](#)
[Marinda Monfilston](#)
[New London Youth Affairs, Rianna Rubino, Program Assistant](#)
[National Diaper Bank Network, Ariana Smith, Manager of Legislative Policy](#)
[Laura Stern](#)
[Kathryn Suzio](#)

The testimonies above support this bill because it would address the diaper insecurity many families are currently facing and provide support to the CT diaper banks. Families have struggled to afford diapers as costs rise. This bill would assist in alleviating some of those costs and financial strains. Through this, it would ensure that children are staying healthy, and are not subject to any medical conditions like diaper rashes or UTI's. When children remain healthy, there are fewer medical costs and missed days of work for parents. Additionally, it is easier for parents to enroll their children in early education programs that require them to come prepared with diapers. Not only will it aid children, but maternal health is more positively impacted when children have clean diapers. Overall, the bill is a positive investment in the health and economic future of families

[CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Mario Volpe, Policy & Advocacy Manager](#) supports this bill and states similar testimony as above as well as mentioning the financial burden that many survivors of domestic violence face. Through this program, they will be able to seek support they might not otherwise have access to.

[Lynn Broder, Attorney](#) supports this bill because it will take care of those in need.

[Temple Emanuel, Linda Drazen](#) supports this bill because diapers are essential to children and families.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Anonymous 7](#) and [Anonymous 6](#) oppose the bill because it would increase spending and decrease affordability for taxpayers

[Anonymous 8](#) opposes and says no more than 7 bills should be considered at a time

[CT State Community College Norwalk, Drew Michael McWeeney, Professor](#) supports the goal of the bill but opposes the funding mechanism. The program is not equitable because it asks taxpayers to contribute when they might not have the funds themselves. All families should be able to get assistance with diapers, not just low-income ones. Additionally, there should be research into alternative funding methods, such as reallocating existing funds, tax incentives for businesses, or donations.

Reported by: Amber Monzillo

Date: March 31, 2026