

Human Services Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-329 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR OLDER ADULTS WITH
Title: DISABILITIES.

Vote Date: 3/19/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/3/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Several barriers exist that prevent Medicaid coverage in certain circumstances that are perceived as unnecessarily restrictive. The bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to disregard benefits received under Title II of the Social Security Act by a disabled adult child (DAC) from being used in the determination of the HUSKY C eligibility. The goal is to expand Medicaid eligibility for older adults with disabilities by not counting their disability income against them to qualify for medical care.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Department of Social Services, Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner: The Department opposes the bill. DSS believes that most DAC's are already eligible for Medicaid and are either already enrolled or can enroll subject to spenddown. The Department states that removing the spenddown requirement would increase the number of individuals eligible for HUSKY C, incurring significant costs for the state. DSS also highlights the costs resulting from necessary system changes to implement.

Aging and Disability Services, Mairead Painter, Long-Term Care Ombudsman: The Long-Term Care Ombudsman program supports the bill. The testimony states that older adults with disabilities who rely on Title II Social Security benefits should not be a risk of losing their medical assistance because of income that is from their disability status. Technical income calculations should not prevent individuals from qualifying for coverage.

Department of Developmental Services, Christine Hainsworth-Straus, Chairperson Council on Developmental Services: The Council supports the bill. Childhood Disability Benefits can push adults with a disability over the HUSKY C income limits, so eliminating this income from Medicaid eligibility calculations will allow adults with disabilities to maintain coverage.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

CT Chapter, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Attorney Lisa Nachmias Davis:

The testimony states the bill doesn't expand eligibility but fixes a bureaucratic glitch that penalizes the disabled as they age. The testimony states that this problem is unique to CT and a few other states because of a federal fix that isn't available in CT. The testimony also recommends the bill exclude VA homecare from the income calculation.

Mary Ann Langton, Disability Advocate: Supports the bill to increase equity in Medicaid coverage.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Linda Dalessio

Reported by: Breanne Clifton

Date: March 26, 2026