TO: Education Committee  
FROM: Samantha Bell, The Alliance  
RE: S.B. 933 AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN FAMILIES IN THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM.

Good afternoon Representative Sanchez, Senator McCrory, Representative McCarty, Senator Berthel, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 933 An Act Expanding Eligibility for Certain Families in the Care4Kids Program.

My name is Samantha Bell, Public Policy Intern, at the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance (The Alliance). The Alliance is Connecticut’s statewide advocacy organization representing nonprofits, with a membership of more than 300 community organizations and associations across the state. Nonprofits deliver essential community services to more than half a million people each year and employ almost 14% of Connecticut’s workforce.

SB 933 would expand eligibility of the Care4Kids program to include families with a gross income of up to seventy-five percent of the statewide median income and require advance notice of expanded program eligibility. Care4Kids makes childcare affordable for low to moderate income families across Connecticut. Nonprofits provide Care4Kids services across Connecticut, and serve the children and families who are part of the Care4Kids program in many other ways.

The cost of childcare takes up sixteen percent of Connecticut’s median family income. Currently, the program is only offered to households that make less than fifty percent of the statewide median income. Due to the high cost of childcare families may have to decide between paying for care or paying for other essentials like rent, food, and medication. When individuals are unable to afford childcare, they may have to watch their child instead of going to work. Expanding eligibility for this program would create opportunities for more families to work, look for work, and earn a living without the added financial burden of childcare. The cost of childcare should not place such a financial burden on families or force individuals to choose between caring for their child and their livelihood.

We support expanding income eligibility requirements in the Care4Kids program, making childcare affordable for more families in Connecticut. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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