

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB 740 and HB 5986

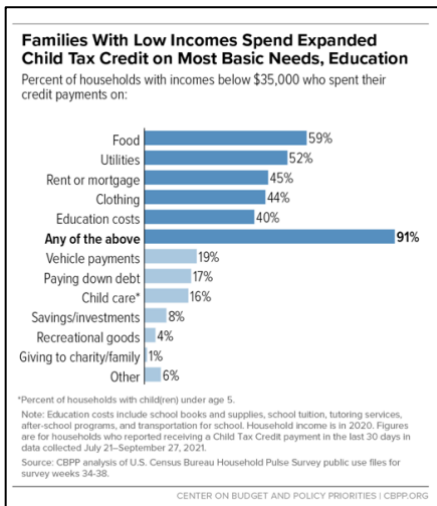
I am a pediatrician who works in New Haven, CT and Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and represent over 600 pediatricians in CT.

I am writing in **strong support** of SB 740 and HB 5986.

As a pediatrician, every day I see how poverty harms children. [The American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement on Poverty](#) describes how children who experience hunger, unstable housing, violence, parental mental health disease experience poorer health outcomes such as higher rates of obesity, asthma, poor school performance, and emotional and behavioral challenges.

Poverty is a [racial justice issue in CT](#): 23% of Black children and 27% of Hispanic children live in poverty, compared with 6% of white non-Hispanic children.

When the expanded federal child tax credit [briefly reduced child poverty in 2021](#), I saw families buying healthier food, paying off outstanding utility bills, paying for childcare and so much more (image). In 2022, Connecticut offered a one-time Child Tax Rebate it is estimated that [80 percent of eligible families applied](#). Those resources are needed by families now, more than ever.



Some will argue Connecticut cannot afford a child tax credit. However, I know as a pediatrician a small investment now will pay dividends in the future. Every dollar spent reducing child poverty today, yields future savings including lower healthcare costs, fewer demands on social services and increased earnings in adulthood.

A CT child tax credit is a prescription for immediate financial relief, long-term social health, and a proven strategy to improve the lives of children and families.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please reach out with questions.

Sincerely,

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These are my personal views and do not reflect those of my employer.