



**Testimony from Susan DiVietro, PhD, Research Scientist, Injury Prevention Center at
Connecticut Children's
to the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee regarding
SB 103, An Act Establishing a Refundable Child Tax Credit**

February 27, 2026

Senator Fonfara, Representative Horn, and members of the legislature's Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my support of for SB 103, An Act Establishing a Refundable Child Tax Credit.

My name is Susan DiVietro, and I am a Medical Anthropologist and Research Scientist with the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's. Before commenting on the bill, I want to provide some background on Connecticut Children's and its Office for Community Child Health. Connecticut Children's is a nationally recognized, 214-bed not-for-profit children's hospital driving innovation in pediatrics. With nearly 3,200 employees and over 1,300 pediatric experts on our medical staff, we are the only health system in the state dedicated exclusively to the care of children. However, we know that clinical care alone accounts for just 10% of children's overall health; the remaining 90% is shaped by social and economic factors. The CT Children's Office for Community Child Health works to improve the factors that influence child health, including housing, transportation, food, nutrition, and family support services. All of these are directly impacted by a family's economic circumstances.

At Connecticut Children's, we see daily how financial hardships prevent families from accessing care for their children, whether it's lack of reliable transportation to appointments, inability to afford healthy meals, or struggles to pay utility bills. These economic pressures greatly impact child health, which is why I am offering my support for SB 103. A state-level child tax credit would reduce child poverty and empower families to better provide for their children's needs.

We also recognize the profound link between poverty and violence. Financial distress drives community violence and traps intimate partner violence survivors in abusive relationships. Providing families with resources for food, childcare, and housing reduces stress and conflict, gives survivors and their children more options for safety, and can prevent future violence. Economic stability for parents experiencing violence leads to better outcomes for children and can ultimately create safer homes and communities.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 93% of low-income Connecticut families used their federal Child Tax Credit payments for basic needs, including food, clothing, shelter, education and utilities.¹ Meeting these basic needs is essential for children's optimal health and development.

Connecticut has great potential to better support families and reduce health disparities, but this requires a shift in thinking. We can improve outcomes by addressing families' needs holistically. Resilient parents who can earn a living wage, pay their bills, and put food on the table are better able to support their children's health and development. A state refundable child tax credit can strengthen families and improve outcomes for children.

¹ Claire Zippel. 9 in 10 Families With Low Incomes Are Using Child Tax Credits to Pay for Necessities, Education. CENTER OF BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES. <https://www.cbpp.org/blog/9-in-10-families-with-low-incomes-are-using-child-tax-credits-to-pay-for-necessities-education>

Thank you for your consideration of this position. If you have any questions about this testimony, please contact Christian Petersen, Connecticut Children's Government Relations Manager at cpetersen@connecticutchildrens.org.