

Submitter: Emalydia Flenory

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2593

I'm writing in support of HB 2593 because, if passed, it would address the needs of graduate student/employee-parents, who are often left out of social support services. HB 2593 calls for a renaming of the program itself, which would encapsulate the demographic it's meant to serve. As a graduate student who has worked alongside graduate student/employee-parents, I know that many struggle to find the financial resources they need to support their family while pursuing their degree. This is made harder by not being able to quickly decipher whether or not they would qualify for a particular program without having to take the time to dig through all of the fine print of the program.

Another complaint I hear often from these parents is that the services that are available are not accessible immediately/ in a reasonable timeframe. This causes these parents more stress and anxiety about how they're going to be able to support their family and stay on track with their coursework, research and/or teaching. Many of these parents are being placed on a waitlist while other families who qualify for services like TANF are prioritized. To be clear, I'm not suggesting that those families on TANF are not deserving of additional support.

However, without having a sufficient process for tracking relevant info about applicants, who's on the waitlist and who's actually receiving assistance, there's no way to know if there's a discrepancy in specific demographics of applicants who may be underrepresented and underfunded. I ask for your support for HB 2593.

Thank you for your time.