



Press Statement – For Immediate Release

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Community members and advocates to hold a ‘funeral’ for bills that have died

On Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 10:30am, community members and advocates will hold a ‘funeral procession’ from the atrium of the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Ave, Hartford, through the underground concourse, to the Capitol, 210 Capitol Ave, Hartford, ending outside Governor Lamont’s office on the second floor. There they will read eulogies for bills that have died related to benefits cliffs. These bills have essentially “died” because there is no new funding in the budget this year.

Benefits cliffs are when people receiving benefits (such as childcare subsidies, SNAP/food assistance, public housing/Section 8/rental assistance, HUSKY health insurance, and energy assistance) earn just a little more than the income limit and lose benefits that they rely on, even though their increased income does not match the value of the benefits they have lost.

Bills to be “eulogized” include:

- SB 36 – An Act Establishing a Refundable Child Tax Credit
- SB 146 – An Act Concerning the Administration of the Rental Assistance Program and Other Housing Voucher Programs
- SB 306 – An Act Providing for the Phased-Out Elimination of Asset Limits in the HUSKY C Program
- SB 5369 – An Act Concerning a Benefits Cliffs Pilot Program

These bills are being “mourned” because they would have helped to mitigate benefits cliffs that people experience when receiving government assistance. These bills would not have wholly fixed the problem but would have helped thousands of individuals and families make ends meet.

Fix the Benefits Cliff is a group of community members and advocates from Mothers and Others for Justice, Witnesses to Hunger, Early Childhood Alliance, CT Citizen Action Group, Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut, and more who are working to end benefits cliffs.