

Hartford Courant.

Welfare Ax Would Fall Directly On Kids

By: Wade Gibson, Senior Policy Fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children

August 15, 2013

A recent op-ed by the Cato Institute criticizing supports for low-income residents seeks to divide, rather than unite, Americans and Connecticut residents [Aug. 12, "Welfare Can Make More Sense Than Work"].

The article from the Cato Institute attempts to contrast the adequacy of social programs and the inadequacy of jobs available to welfare recipients to argue that Connecticut should slash programs that aid low-income residents. Cato misses a better proposal: to make work pay. We should prioritize proven programs like the earned income tax credit that pull people into the workforce.

The article also misses a broader point. Here in Connecticut and America, we are all on the same team in a global competition. We need all hands on deck. We cannot afford to cast off thousands, especially our children. The programs Cato derides directly benefit kids. Children who get high-quality early education and who grow up healthy and well fed make stronger parents, smarter workers, and better citizens. They are, quite literally, our future.

Wade Gibson, Hartford

The writer is a senior policy fellow in charge of the Fiscal Policy Center at Connecticut Voices for Children.