

Human Services Committee

March 6, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7302

**AN ACT CONCERNING RATES PAID TO PROVIDERS UNDER THE CHLD
CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

My name is Terry Forde and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Raised Bill 7302 AN ACT CONCERNING RATES PAID TO PROVIDERS UNDER THE CHLD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM.

I and my wife Sandra are licensed childcare providers in Hartford. We have first hand knowledge of the challenges families face in order to qualify for the CARE4KIDS program, and first hand knowledge of the low rates the state of Connecticut pays us for accepting children into our childcare program.

The state pays providers too little for the work we do. We give kids a safe place to grow and learn. Because of low pay, as well as hassles over payments and deciding if families qualify for the program, childcare providers have dropped out of the CARE4KIDS program, because they can't afford to be in it. If the state increased the reimbursement rates, it would help keep providers in the program and enable them to continue to give the quality care to kids in my community.

Improving the care we give to children and keeping quality home childcare businesses open are the reasons many childcare providers in the state are working with the Service

Employees International Union (SEIU) to push for bills like this. SEIU is helping child care providers unite for increased standards, better pay, and health care in other States and we hope to have those successes here in Connecticut. I urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you.