



The Wallingford Community Day Care Center, Inc.

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Testimony
Connecticut General Assembly
Human Services Committee Public Hearing
March 06, 2007

RE: RB No. **7302**

An Act Concerning Rates Paid to Providers Under the Child Care Subsidy Program

Care4Kids, the Child Care Subsidy Program currently assists low income families with the fees for child care. In the child development centers funded by DSS, only the family fee assessed by Care4Kids can be charged to those low income families. The income from Care4Kids has subsidized the state funded centers for the past several years. With the ever increasing cost of care and education, and the lack of funding, it now takes both the DSS subsidy and the Care4Kids subsidy plus the parent fee to cover a significant portion of the cost.

We encourage the General Assembly to pass Raised Bill 7302 with the understanding that the market rate survey conducted biennially in accordance with federal regulation will be utilized to gain a reasonable reimbursement rate. Section 2 of the bill increases the amount paid to unlicensed providers by 15% for the first year. It does not guarantee any increase beyond that and does not seem to tie the reimbursement for those providers to the market rate survey. We believe that licensing is a minimum standard that should apply to all state funding but understand that Care4Kids is essentially a supplemental welfare payment for many families.

We commend the General Assembly for trying to deal with the complex issues related to funding the early childhood education initiatives. Please remember that the Care4Kids funding proposed is still far less than the actual expenditure in 2002. We depend on that funding to assist low income working parent families to choose quality early education for their children. The DSS funded child development and education programs rely heavily on Care4Kids to provide the quality in our accredited facilities. Please fund it adequately while you work on the longer term initiatives. Thank you.

Kathleen M. Queen, Executive Director