

**Date: March 13, 2007**

**To: Senator Harris and Members of the Human Services Committee**

**Re: In Support of RB Number 1382, AN ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS PROVIDING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE**

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Ana Ortiz and I live and work as a home-based childcare provider in Willimantic. I am writing in support of RB 1382.

I have been taking care of and educating children in my home based daycare for 8 years. I provide a valuable service because I'm available for different shifts. A mom who works at the hospital on the third shift as a CNA has four children in my daycare. Without me she would not be able to work. She works every other weekend so I do too. I have had three different schedules. There are other parents in the community who are able to work second shift because I am here.

I am more than a babysitter, I am a loving educator and while my daycare allows their parents to work I am teaching the kids early learning skills. It can be challenging at times because the pay we receive from the Care-4-Kids program is low and I don't want to ask the parents to pay above and beyond the subsidy because they are also struggling to make ends meet.

Passing this bill would help me to expand my daycare and perhaps add another room. Equally important, it would give us a voice with the state. In other states providers have improved the quality of care and kept options open for working parents by negotiating for incentives. However, we do not have this right here in Connecticut. I urge you to support RB 1382. Thank you for your time.

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