

**TO: Committee on Human Services**

**DATE: March 13, 2007**

**RE: Raised Bill No. 1382 AN ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS PROVIDING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE**

My name is Brandi Lewandowski, and I am a license exempt in-home child care provider in Chaplin.

I urge you to support Raised Bill No. 1382, **AN ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS PROVIDING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE**

I am a childcare provider because I believe that in-home care is the best childcare option that families are given. I love spending time with children, and in my home I can devote the time it takes to give personal attention to each and every child. That personal touch makes all the difference, especially since I care for two children who suffer from cystic fibrosis.

I am not currently a licensed childcare provider, but I plan to become licensed when my husband and I purchase a house, which we hope to do by the end of next year. My daycare will expand to include more children. I want to know that when I do become licensed I have the tools that I need to provide top quality care. That means having the resources to pursue training for myself and to offer more for the children. Raised Bill No 1382 will do just that by making grants available for insurance, training and development.

We need a childcare system that is affordable and accessible to parents and fair to the providers. We should encourage people to become licensed by providing the training and support needed to run an in-home daycare and the ability to

make improvements in our field. Please give us a voice by giving us the freedom to bargain collectively through a representative of our choice as providers already do in Washington, Oregon, and Illinois. I urge you to support consistent, high quality care by supporting Raised Bill No. 1382.

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