

TO: Human Services Committee

DATE: March 13, 2007

RE: Raised Bill No. 1382 An Act concerning Professional Assistance to Persons Providing Child Care Assistance

Dear Senator Jonathon Harris, Representative Villano and members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Harriet Shelby and I am very proud to say I run an in home daycare in Bridgeport. I urge you to support Bill #1382 for several reasons.

I am fortunate to say that I do have health insurance through my husband. Coverage for both of us costs \$500 a month which includes dental and eye coverage. Although our healthcare is quality, it is not affordable. I believe childcare providers and actually all people deserve quality affordable healthcare. Health insurance is so expensive and I know childcare providers who do not have a spouse and therefore have no health coverage.

I did not enter this business to make money. I do this because I love the kids. I am currently taking a child advocate class at the Parent Leadership Training Institute in Bridgeport. There I learn about how to deal and with troubled children and better ways for children to interact with one another. Parents are the first teachers and while the parents are working very hard to provide the best they can for their children, I want the parents to know that their children are in good hands when they are with me.

My daycare is a place where children are educated, are safe and are in a pleasant environment to grow. Every Wednesday I take the children to the library where they read new books and have time to make new playmates. If Bill #1382 is passed, then I can use grant money to take the children to new places like the museum or even do group activities with other providers in my geographic area. I would also like to see grant money put towards the CPR certification class, First Aid class, and a class on how to

properly administer over-the-counter and prescription drugs. We can also have granted funded workshops similar to the one I currently go to.

Please support Bill #1382. Let us work together to enhance the professional child care services offered by unlicensed and licensed providers receiving payment from the state.

Thank you for your time.

Harriet Shelby
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