

TO: Members of the General Assembly Human Services Committee

RE: In Support of RB Number 1382, An ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS PROVIDING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

DATE: March 13, 2007

Good Afternoon Senator Harris, Representative Villano, and Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Jackie Robinson and I live and work as a home-based child care provider in Burlington. I am here today to speak in support of RB 1382, AN ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS PROVIDING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.

I have been taking care of children for more than thirty years. Currently I care for my two grandchildren and in the summer I also care for my nieces and nephews. Taking care of family members, I am unlicensed but I am in the process of getting my license. I've taken classes in child development and volunteered at a daycare center in my town and of course took the required first aid classes. I have all the requirements now for my Child Development Associate credential.

I wanted to testify today because I know that it was difficult for me to put together all of the resources I needed for my application. I imagine it must be much harder for those providers who don't have a computer or a car. I met many childcare providers in my classes who opted not to get licensed because the process was too difficult for them. We do not have a lot of support and this means there are less incentives for people to provide care to working families.

I support this bill because I think improvements must be made in training options and in the regulations. Also, providers as a group do not have health insurance and something has to be done to help them with their medical costs. Passing this bill would also encourage people to become family child care providers which would give families more

options for their children's care. I hope you will pass this important bill. Thank-you for your time and I'd be glad to answer your questions.

Jackie Robinson

34 Savarese Lane

Burlington, CT 06013

860-673-1968