

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

Members of the committee:

My name is Maureen MacDonald and I operate a licensed in home day care in Windsor.

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

I became an in-home daycare provider because I couldn't afford care for my own children. I have been licensed now for 28 years and keep a full daycare. I currently watch six children, one with special needs. As you can probably imagine, my work keeps me very busy. I work at least 45 hours per week.

I am not fortunate enough to have health insurance coverage. Last year I was covered by the state HUSKY program, but now my daughter is grown and I am no longer eligible. There are no other programs available to in-home daycare providers. I can't afford to purchase health insurance because my income from childcare is low and I already pay for all of the materials for the children out of my pocket. On top of that, I sometimes lose money because parents have trouble paying their co-pay.

I support Raised Bill No. 1382 because it would allow providers like me to access health care, and give us the freedom to bargain collectively through a representative of our choosing. I urge you to support this important bill.

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