

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 Noemi Leon. I am an unlicensed in-home childcare provider in Norwich.

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

I provide childcare in my home for my two grandchildren all day Sunday, after school during the week, and for any school vacations and early dismissals. I have been a provider for over 5 years. When my grandchildren were born, my daughter and I didn't even consider placing them in outside care. We felt that the children would be much better off with their family.

The Care4Kids program can be difficult to navigate. The counselor responsible for the children has changed a number of times, and we can't always get a call back or an answer to our questions. The rules are not always clear to us. To make matters worse, the way that the program is administered can change without notice. When we believe that an error has been made, there is no way for us to pursue it.

At my other job at General Cable in Willimantic I am a union member. We have a contract with written guarantees and a grievance procedure to settle disputes. In-

home childcare providers would benefit from these same basic freedoms, and through our union we could improve the quality of care for all children and ourselves. Please Support Raised Bill No. 1382.

Noemi Leon
76 Sandy Lane
Norwich, CT
860.917.3131