

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 Stephanie Crawford. I am a licensed home-based child care provider in Hartford. I am writing in support of RB 1382. I have been taking care of children for 16 years. I am currently taking care of three children in my home so their parents can go to work. I am a substitute parent to these children and I love what I do.

Family daycare providers are more than babysitters. We are educators and make a very important contribution to our local communities. In particular, I feel that I provide a valuable service because I work well with kids. I have a lot of patience. I go to the root of their behavior and identify what works best with them. When they leave my daycare they are all prepared for preschool. I also provide the kids with healthy, nutritious meals and snacks.

I can think of many ways I'd use the grants described in this bill. Although I have completed all classes for my Child Development Associate credential, I'd like to get certified to administer medications. A little boy I usually take care of didn't come to my daycare this morning because he is sick. He has asthma. Whenever his asthma is bad his mom has to come get him. If I were trained to administer medications I could give this boy his nebulizer treatments so his mother wouldn't have to miss a day or work. I could also give a child who has a low fever some Tylenol or Motrin. These mothers need to work and few daycare centers can handle mild illnesses.

I would also use the grant to get educational materials for my parents. Parents are looking for help understanding their kids' behavior. I'd like to continue to learn the best

way to communicate with them about their kids. Another dream I've had for some time to buy a three family home and turn one whole floor into a daycare. Right now I live in an apartment and my pay is too low to buy a home. If I had a home I could help more families in the community.

Just as important, we need a real voice with the state of Connecticut. I'd like to work together with the parents to develop more trainings not just for young providers but also for the parents. Having a union would also give us providers a network of support that we don't have now.

This bill will help keep providers like me in the business of offering high quality child care and early education. I urge you to support RB 1382.

Thank-you for your time.

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