

To: Members of the Committee on Human Services
Connecticut General Assembly

From: Josephine M. Pisarsky
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Date: March 12, 2007

Subject: Raised Bill No. 1396

I urge you to support Bill No: 1396.

Bill No. 1396, states "The secretary may waive the competitive procurement requirements ...with respect to any contract between a state agency and a private provider of human services."

The impact of a competitive bid process with respect to state funded child care centers would be detrimental. Many of Connecticut's Department of Social Service State Funded Centers have been in existence for decades. These non-profit centers historically, are supported by the communities they serve through donations of goods and services (in some cases this support is consistence and has spanned decades). The Margaret C. Griffin Child Development Center of Southington, In. is one of these centers.

A time proven critical infrastructure of measurable quality care for our youngest citizens is already in place. Many of these children are already at risk. For some families, these centers and their staff are life lines. Some of the services that D.S.S. Centers provide in addition to care, but not limited to: educational experiences, meals, parenting information and workshops, and acting as a referral service providing information about other community services and programs designed to assist families. In order for children and their family to thrive all of the above services mentioned are important and currently in place at our D.S.S. Center. Continuity of care is essential for the positive development of a child. Stability of funding to those agencies is essential to continuity.

Please support and vote yes for Bill No. 1396

Sincerely,



Josephine M. Pisarsky