

March 9, 2007

Members of Human Services Committee:

Re: I Support Raised Bill No. 1396

I am very concerned about the continuity of care and education of young children across Connecticut. The children at the Margaret Griffin Child Development Center in Southington and other state- funded child care centers are receiving some of the best care and early learning available. I came to this center as a single parent many years ago and became a parent representative on the Board of Directors- a responsibility I continue to fulfill to this day. Let me share with you my fears as a young single mother looking for care for my precious children. Will my children be safe? Will they be happy? Will they receive an education or just receive babysitting? Will the staff nurture my children? In essence-Whom can I trust with my children? I spoke to everyone I knew who had young children. I asked in church, I asked in the grocery store, I asked family and friends.

Before I arrived at my chosen center, the Margaret C. Griffin Child Development Center of Southington, Inc. I had already developed a sense of trust. Trust built on the fact that they had been used by so many others in my position and that they were so deeply rooted within our community. It was a relief to know that I could go to work each day and not have to worry about the well-being of my children. Their wonderful reputation gave me peace of mind. If this contract goes out to bid annually, biannually or whatever, how will parents like me across the state make that choice? Quality and trust are earned over time.

I urge each and every one of you to support Bill No. 1396

Sincerely,



Kathleen Vassar-King  
Parent  
Board Member MCGCD

12 Carter Heights  
Plantsville, CT