

**TO: Members of the Committee on Human Services  
Connecticut General Assembly**

**FROM: Virginia M. Bicknell**

**DATE: March 10, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Raised Bill No. 1396**

**I urge you to vote for Bill No. 1396, which 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."**

**If the Attorney General's opinion that human services contracts must go out to bid "unless otherwise exempted by statute," the Margaret Griffin Child Development Center of Southington may very well lose its contract.**

**Our center has provided superior service and education to the preschool children, their parents, and the community for over thirty years. Having been affiliated with the center, first as a parent, then as a board member, for over twenty-eight years I know the center well. Our center is so effective because we have a strong, well-trained staff with little turnover. They provide a continuity of care and a well-rounded early childhood educational program in a loving environment. We have strong community support and relationships that have been developed over more than thirty years of service.**

**If personal service contracts do have to go out to bid, I can foresee chaos. Families may lose access to quality childcare. Many of our parents are dependent upon this continuity of care to maintain their employment. Moreover, they may have to move children from one center to another every year. Standards may also decline.**

**Please vote for Bill No. 1396.**

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