

March 13, 2007

**Testimony In Support of RB 1382, AN ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS PROVIDING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.**

To: Senator Harris and Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Margarita Alvarado and I live in New Britain. For eight years I have been taking care of children in my home. I am writing to you in support of ***RB 1382, AN ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS PROVIDING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.***

I get up very early in the morning to receive the kids whom I care for so their parents can go to work assured in the knowledge that they have someone in whom they can trust their kids. During the day I watch six children at a time between the ages of four months and five years. I provide them with nutritious meals, play with them, do age appropriate activities, and teach them their colors, their letters, and good manners. The kids spend between nine and ten hours a day in my home and at times I become their substitute mother and educator while their biological parents work.

Many people believe that this is an easy job, but they don't think about the responsibility that one takes on caring and educating the sons and daughters of others for the rather low pay that the state provides. Many times the parents have to pay out of their pocket, it's left to us to pay for food, books, toys, supplies for cleaning, learning materials, cases of tissues, etc. as well as the bills for basic services that keep going up.

These expenses don't permit me to pay for medical insurance since insurance is very expensive. It's very important to be in good health to be able to take care of kids. The parents count on my services so that they can go to work. What I earn is just enough to survive and not for paying large medical bills and hospitals. Providers are leaving the profession because we cannot afford to continue to do our jobs without insurance.

Passing this bill would help us with those costs.

Many family daycare providers are also sure that with your help we can make the system work better with a union. Permit us to have a voice and representation. In Connecticut we do not have this right. In other states the providers have gained representation and they have increased incentives, they have a medical plan and they feel motivated to stay with their work with children. Please help us continue to provide the important service we provide by passing this bill - RB #1382.

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