

Human Services Committee

March 6, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7302

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE RATES PAID TO PROVIDERS UNDER THE
CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM.**

My name is Quenette Pugh. I live in Bridgeport and I run a licensed in-home daycare. I have done so for 16 years.

I urge you to support Raised Bill No. 7302, **An Act Concerning the Rates Paid To Providers Under The Child Care Subsidy Program.**

There are days that I am an educator, a doctor, and a therapist all in one. I teach the children manners - wave hello, help others, share, don't hit. I teach the children to spell, to recognize shapes and colors, and more. I provide a wide variety of toys, musical instruments and educational materials for the children so they can grow and learn. I work one on one with the children every day to prepare them for their future as students, as friends, and as citizens. Parents depend on me to be a part of their child's educational and social development.

For all of this I earn only \$4.11 an hour. Sometimes I earn less because parents are unable to pay their share of the weekly child care payment. In addition to my living expenses, that \$4.11 per hour is used to pay for educational materials and toys for the children, food, utilities and all of the other expenses that come along with running a licensed in-home day care facility. I have health insurance through my husband, but it is not good. I am given only \$1000.00 per year to cover all of my medical expenses. I am one of the lucky ones. I have met in-home day care providers who have no insurance at all.

I know I am not alone in my concerns for the children and families served by in-home day care providers. We want to give the best we can for them, but we are limited by low subsidy rates and the resulting high co-pays for parents. We must prevent this growing childcare crisis in Connecticut. I am asking you to support Raised Bill No. 7302. Increase the subsidy rates fore in-home child care providers so we can continue to provide top quality care to our state's children.

Quenette Pugh
126 Oakdale St.
Bridgeport, CT 06606
203-372-7793