

TO: Human Services Committee

DATE: March 13, 2007

RE: Raised Bill No. 1382, An Act Concerning Professional Assistance to Persons Providing Child Care Assistance

Representative Villano, Senator Harris and Members of the Human Services Committee:

Hello. My name is Carolyn Thompson and I run a daycare in my home. Please support Bill 1382.

I have been a provider for over 15 years and being around children comes natural to me. After spending every single day with children, I can tell you that everyday is learning and growing experience for them. Bill 1382 is comprehensive of what children need and what providers need in order to create secure and nurturing environments.

When reading section, 2b, relating to grant money being available to providers for professional staff training programs, family support services, parenting education and involvement, educational consulting services, my eyes lit up. I have my Child Development Associate Degree (CDA) which is not required but provides valuable knowledge to adapt into my daycare. We learn the developmental stages of children, how to build their motor skills, educational craft activities and many other skills. It would be very helpful in the child's development if every provider was able to gain such knowledge to develop the provider's career as well as the child's intellect.

Timothy enrolled in my daycare and had a speech problem. Through my individual focus on the Timothy, I saw his problem at an early age and was able to raise awareness to the parents. With grant money, I can work directly with Timothy as defined in section 2b, in my home. Please pass this Bill 1382 and let us work together to solve the conditions of providers not being able to afford to healthcare, children not being accepted into the state subsidy program, and

providers making a living wage. I love my job and I would like to be recognized with all providers. The only way to do this is to bargain collectively with the state. Please pass Bill 1382. Thank you for your time.

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