

TO: Human Services Committee

DATE: March 13, 2007

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

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

My name is Janet Cruz and I run an in home licensed daycare in Bridgeport. I have been a provider for 4 years. I urge you to support Raised Bill 1382, An Act Concerning Professional Assistance to Persons Providing Child Care Assistance. Major points that stick out to me in this bill, is to collectively bargain, get affordable healthcare and also get grant money to better provide for our children.

Providers want to come together and being represented as one unit, because we some uniform improvements that we would like to see made. First, we would like to see the eligibility cutoff for the Care 4 Kids program raised. That way, more children will have quality of care, parents can work to provide for their family and providers can get an increase in their current rate. I make \$3-\$4 per hour. I would like to make at least minimum wage for my service to the state.

I would like access to affordable healthcare for my family and myself. Currently I am enrolled on the HUSKY A program along with my daughter and my husband. I need to be healthy in order to run my daycare. I provide quality care to the children and I expect since the state regulates what I can and cannot do, as well as pays me through the Care4Kids program, that I should also have access to quality healthcare form the state.

Right now, there is no available money or grant for family support services, parenting education and involvement, community-based outreach programs, the purchase of educational materials and equipment, facility maintenance and repair. I would like to buy more books, art materials and equipment for the children however with my rate of \$3=\$4 an hour, I HAVE NO MONEY LEFT OVER TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL

MATERIALS. Since I am bilingual I speak to Spanish and English and teach those numbers and the alphabet in both Spanish and English to prepare them for the future.

These children are our future and they deserve the best and if we as providers and you as the state allow our input and increase funding for early education in home daycare we will raise standards, and create secure, nurturing environments for more children in need. Thank you for your time in reading this. Please support Bill# 1382.

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