

**TO: Committee on Human Services**

**DATE: March 13, 2007**

**RE: Raised Bill No. 1382 AN ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS PROVIDING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE**

My name is Mayra Torres. I operate an in-home day care in Willimantic.

I urge you to support Raised Bill No. 1382, **AN ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS PROVIDING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE**

I have over thirteen years experience as a family daycare provider. I am the childcare provider to my two school-age nephews as well as an 8-month old, and soon there will be a new arrival. In the past I was the childcare provider for my four grandchildren. I am in the process of becoming a licensed in-home daycare provider, and expect to open for business within six months.

I already face high out-of-pocket costs and when my daycare expands I expect those costs to be even higher. Right now I work full time and – because I'm paid only \$189 a month for each child – I make less than minimum wage. With the little money I earn for childcare, I pay premiums for family health insurance. I also buy educational materials, toys, and food for the children. Every dollar I spend on the children is a dollar less than I earn.

In order to guarantee quality childcare in Connecticut there needs to be money available for providers to pay for health insurance, training, education, and the other costs that are necessarily a part of in-home day care. Providers then need a collective voice through a representative of our choosing so that we can

continue to make improvements in our lives and in the lives of the children and families we serve. Please support Raised Bill No. 1382.

Mayra Torres

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