

**TO: Human Services Committee**

**March 13, 2007**

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

Good afternoon, Senator Harris, Representative Villano and Members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Milly Balgobin. I run an in home daycare in Hartford. After doing this for the past four years, I am ready to quit and I am not the only one. Please let me explain.

I give everything to the children. Everyday working parents come to me for help. They are low-income families and do not have enough money to pay for their child's daycare. They apply for Care 4 Kids, which is exactly what the state subsidy was designed to do. After watching a child since February 12, just yesterday I found out the mother was rejected from the subsidy system because she did not have all the correct paperwork. I have been watching her child for one month for free. Now what do I do? Drop her child just as Care 4 Kids has dropped her? I cannot and will not let them struggle alone.

I love what I do, but it is very hard. As an at home provider not only am I strapped for cash, so are the parents of the children in my day care. I am trying to stick up for them by caring for their children, being financially flexible and extending my hours well into the night, so parents can work more hours to become more self-reliant. I am a supporting resource for the families.

Secondly I have no health insurance. My daughter, Malika, and I have been dropped from HUSKY. With many high costs of healthcare I myself am a parent who cannot provide quality healthcare for my daughter. You can imagine how this makes me feel and why I feel compassion towards the parents I work with everyday. They are trying their best just as I am giving mine. But it is not good enough and after 4 years, I am ready to find a job with more consistency and reliability.

I am supporting Raised Bill 1382, because it allows providers to have a voice to speak on what childcare providers and children need. We all deserve access to quality affordable healthcare.

I cannot financially afford to do everything the children deserve. Grant money would be useful in my ability to further assist the families and the children. I feel I could also help them if I was able to

educate myself on parenting skills. I often struggle to purchase educational materials. A grant would allow me to have the materials that the children need and deserve

Thank you and urge you to support Raised Bill: 1382.

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