

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 Quenette Pugh and I run a licensed in home daycare in Bridgeport. I urge you to support Bill 1382. I have been a provider for over 16 years and would like to make a positive change before I retire. I have dedicated my basement to the children's' daycare with a focus on education and social development. I am a strong supporter of learning through music and music is usually playing in my home center. If you pass this bill, I will use grant money to purchase musical instruments for children to learn and art supplies for children to express themselves. I take pride in what I do and I am rewarded everyday by seeing improvements in their art, focus, and the way they treat each other.

Personally, I do have health insurance through my husband, but it is not quality. He and I are given \$1,000 each per year to pay for all visits, prescriptions, and emergency care. I am fortunate to have some sort of insurance, however it is not quality or affordable or portable. I know of fellow providers in Bridgeport, who are single and have no spouse to rely on. The access to affordable, quality healthcare is a second reason I am in support of this bill.

Raised Bill 1382 addresses the concerns I have about the future of childcare. This bill allows us to have a uniform voice of over 800 providers through collective bargaining, affordable healthcare, and grant money to utilize educational resources for our children. Thank you for your time and please support Bill 1382.

Sincerely,

Quenette Pugh
126 Oakdale St.
Bridgeport, Ct 06606