

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

Members of the committee:

My name is Terry Cox and I operate a licensed in home day care in South Windsor.

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

In-home daycare provides families with an alternative to large daycare centers. I worked in centers for years and appreciate the work that they do for children and families, but when my son was born I decided that I wanted him in a place where he could get more individual attention. The families I serve made the same choice for their children.

My son has learning disabilities, so I understand the importance of education based on individual needs. I work with Kindergarten teachers to develop an educational program that will give the children the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the school that they will attend. I am familiar with home-schooling methods, and model my teaching style after those proven methods. In order to provide the best care for each child, I also speak with the parents so that I can tailor my teachings to the needs of specific children.

Providing an environment where the children can learn is not free. For example, I pay a subscription fee to a service that allows me to print out educational worksheets and other useful materials. Added to that is the cost of paper and printer cartridges. I used to take the children on field trips as well, but I can no longer afford to do so. Without reimbursement or grant programs from the state, all of my expenses are paid out of my pocket. In effect, the state is penalizing providers who choose to prepare children for their schooling.

The financial troubles facing in-home daycare providers like me don't stop there. In order to maintain a safe environment for children, I must spend extra money on things like fences to keep children out of the road and gates to keep children from falling down stairways. For in-home providers, it is a big burden that reduces our ability to offer other services to the children.

Raised Bill No. 1382 creates grants that would help providers shoulder the high costs of quality childcare. The bill also gives us the freedom to bargain collectively through a representative of our choosing. With that, we will finally have the voice we need to continue to improve the standard of childcare in Connecticut. Please support Raised Bill No. 1382, an act concerning professional assistance to persons providing childcare assistance.

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