

To: Members of the Committee on Human Services  
Connecticut General Assembly

From: Carol J. Smith

Date: March 13, 2007

Subject: Raised Bill No 1396

I urge you to support Bill No: 1396, which states, "The secretary may waive the competitive procurement requirements ...with respect to any contract between a state agency and a private provider of human services."

Decades ago Section 8-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes allowed the State, specifically the "Commissioner of the Department of Social Services to enter into a contract with a municipality, a human resources development agency or a non-profit corporation for state assistance in developing and operating child day care centers for children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or environmental conditions." The Town of Southington, as did many communities across the state, did exactly that. Combined, these programs serve close to 5,000 children. Community support to and for these child care center is huge. Our center alone receives the provision of a social worker and thousands of dollars each year from the United Way, in-kind services from the Board of Education for space, utilities and maintenance, and much of our consumable supplies through civic groups and local churches. The benefit of all this support goes to one place- our children and families- the very reason we are here.

Competitive bidding may very well destroy what has taken years to build. Instead of a wealth of support systems within one agency, these families will receive disjointed care at best, as they attempt to locate and access the "winner" of the bid in each community.

Please prevent this from happening by supporting Bill No. 1396

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Carol J. Smith  
Director

Margaret C. Griffin Child Development Center of Southington, Inc.