

March 9, 2007

Dear Members of the Committee on Human Services,

I am writing to request your support of Raised Bill No. 1396 regarding an act concerning the state purchase of service contracts for health and human services. I write today, not only as a member of the Board of Directors for the Margaret C. Griffin Early Child Development Center, Southington Connecticut but most importantly, as a single parent of three (3) children who has depended on the continuity of child care in order to be able to successfully support my family. I was appalled to hear the Attorney General feels there is no difference between a Purchase of Service Contract and a Personal Service Agreement therefore health and human services are to be included in this "open-bid" practice.

How can child care providers and parents partner to provide our children with a familiar, structured, curriculum based, nurturing, and friendly environment when each year holds such a high level of uncertainty for slot availability, for employment of the child care professionals, and the overall existence of our programs? As parents, how will we be able to partner with our employers to accommodate the potential schedule and location changes we would be facing annually?

How can we adequately prepare our children for successful futures if we cannot even provide them with the structure and stability necessary to successfully get them through some of their most informative years? Please support Raised Bill No. 1396 to exempt our health and human service contracts from Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4-212.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philein R. Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and 'G'.

Philein R. Griffin

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