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Re: Bill #1396

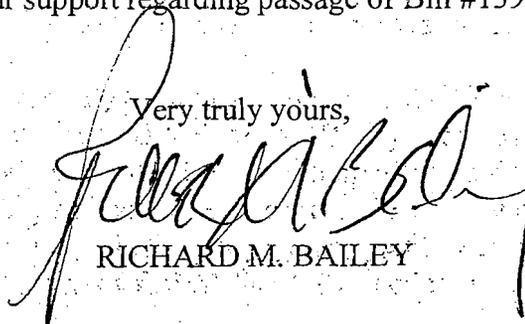
Dear Members of the Committee on Human Services:

I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the Margaret Griffin Child Care Center of Southington, Inc., a D.S.S. state funded child care center, for the last twenty years. (The Center was in existence for many years before I was involved.) During that time, I have seen firsthand how children of all families, but especially disadvantaged ones, can be positively affected by a quality child care experience. Numerous dedicated staff members haven been employed there for many years with scant monetary recompense. Special accreditation (NAYEC) has been obtained after a great amount of time and effort. All in all, I consider the Center to be an invaluable community resource.

Therefore, I take this opportunity to urge passage of Bill #1396, which would provide the opportunity to the Secretary of Office of Policy and Management to waive competitive bidding as it relates to the Center. Competitive bidding would essentially destroy the Center, rendering its existence questionable on a year to year basis. Its employees would not know whether their employment would continue, its high accreditation would be lost, and it would probably be forced to go out of business.

Quality child care is not something that should be "farmed out" to anyone who can meet a low bid requirement in lieu of a Center with a history of decades of community service. Thank you for your support regarding passage of Bill #1396.

Very truly yours,



RICHARD M. BAILEY