

Mister/Madame Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Jody Dietch of Orange. I am co-owner, along with Linda Ferranti also of Orange, of the Little White House Learning Center, LLC located at both 63 & 69 Woodmont Road in Milford. I am here today asking for your support of Senate Bill 695, An Act Concerning Licensure of Child Day Care Centers.

Linda and I bought the Little White House, consisting of approximately 10,000 square feet of space, in June 1998. Today, we have a staff of 45 and are licensed for a total of 162 children.

The two buildings are separated by a driveway approximately 24 ft wide. This is a gated area used for the children to ride bikes and do other activities. It has a full opening gate for emergency vehicle access and is a licensed part of our facility.

Because we have two mailing addresses and two separate buildings, we have been required to have two separate licenses at a cost of \$200 each every two years. In the nearly nine years of owning and operating the Little White House, we have incurred an extra \$1000 in license fees.

Additionally, as we began to have our regular inspections for our license, other issues began to surface that in previous inspections were not raised. First, after renovating some large storage space into classroom space, we were told we needed a staff bathroom in each building. We had to then designate a bathroom that was planned for children to become a staff bathroom. This forced us to reduce the number of children per space to accommodate the bathroom to child ratio, thus reducing our potential income.

Maximizing space is a key in running a successful business. To that goal, we use a smaller space in building 69 as our office where all of our files are kept and maintained. During another inspection, we were told that the files for all the children in building 63 needed to have their files in that building. This meant purchasing a file cabinet and copying the files to have them in both places. This also means that as children transition from class to class, we have to be sure that copies of their files are also in that building. Please note, that each classroom does maintain a file with age, medical issues, and parent/guardian contact information.

After this came the issue of our staff. We have a sign-in and payroll system in building 69 but then were told we needed a sign-in system for building 63 as well. In order to comply with the regulations our staff must also sign-in in their class, if they are in building 63.

As with the children's records, we needed to have the records for the staff working in building 63 to be maintained there as well. This actually means having to have two full sets of staff records in both buildings because in the child care business, staff can be moved around based on attendance. We need to be able to have a staff person from one building cover a class in the other at any given time.

We had previously inquired about getting one license because we are one business but were told due to the separation of buildings, regardless of the issue, we had to have two licenses. That separation, as mentioned previously, is a licensed play area secured by fencing.

We come here today to ask you to please approve and pass Senate Bill No. 695 and help us to spend more of our time teaching the children and less time dealing with a paper shuffle that truly has no benefit to the children or the proper running of our business.

Thank you and thank you to the sponsors of this bill: Senator Slossberg and Representatives Roy and Davis.

Below is a picture of the area between buildings 63 and 69 with the gate opened.

