



March 12, 2012

Rev. Joel Cruz Jr.
House of Praise and Worship, Inc.
Hartford, CT

To Whom It May Concern,

In favor of Senate bill 352 and House bill 5433

“To have a voice...what a wonderful thing”.

I have a two year old daughter who is excitingly expressing herself with words more and more every day. I'm amazed with the sentences and words she is able to say to me and my wife. In occasions, she would say “that’s nice”; in other occasions, she would say “daddy, juice”, “the moon!”, or even “look daddy, apple! As a father, I am amazed and motivated to hear my two year old daughter express herself with such freedom. Yet, I wonder about the workers whose jobs are to support others like childcare workers and PCA’s. I wonder about these workers whose jobs include caring and supporting our infants, toddlers, or perhaps our elders and disabled. I wonder – do they have a voice? Are they able to express themselves with the same unity and support they show others? I wonder – are they able to speak of their frustrations? I wonder – is our state supporting them the same way we expect them to support the people we love? I wonder – do we encourage them to express themselves the same way we demand they care for others? I wonder – are we allowing our workers the opportunity to form unions/unity the same way we ask them to help our children learn to play with other kids as a lesson of working together? I wonder...

To have a voice is a wonderful thing; yet, it is only wonderful when heard. I believe it’s only fair that the person that supports and motivates infants, toddlers, elders, and persons of disability [to] express themselves [is] also given the same support and motivation to express themselves as workers. With that said, I am in full support of childcare givers and PCA’s forming and establishing a union , and getting the encouragement and assistance they deserve to receive. Together – we are all in duty to advocate and encourage each other. Let’s not wonder about support – let’s just support!

At your service,
Rev. Joel Cruz Jr.