

March 13, 2012

Labor and Public Employees Committee
In Support of S.B. 352

I am Chanel Maitland and I am writing in support of S.B. 352. I opened up a family child care business in Bridgeport in 2009. I have a passion for the work that I do. I find it a blessing in disguise to be an influence in a child's life. I like to teach them; shapes, colors, reading. I want to be part of their lives and I want to be able to say that I helped them to develop their minds.

I am with the children 12 hours a day. I am a second mother to these children and because they are helpless, I am their voice. I acknowledge that all children are unique and that all of them move at different paces. I can distinguish what is normal and what is not. I'm the next best thing for these children. However, in my profession I do face challenges.

I choose to take children from the Care 4 Kids program because I know that they need a safe and loving place to go. But I always take a chance with the C4K program; their subsidies rates are not realistic for the standard of living in Fairfield County, there is little to no communication in C4K, and the paperwork process is too long for 21st century technology. I am also a strong believer in continuously taking training to improve the quality of childcare in general. That's why I think family child care providers should get paid decent subsidies rates, because of the education we have. Being part of the union gives us better opportunities to advance in our profession. In order for us to advance, we need support from our state legislators and the residents of Connecticut. Please help us raise child care standards by passing our Bill, SB 352. We work hard and we deserve to have a say in providing high quality child care.

Chanel Maitland
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