

March 12, 2012

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Labor and Public Employees Committee  
Room 3800, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-240-0540

Re: 3/13/12 Agenda 2. S.B. No. 352 RAISED) AN ACT CREATING A PROCESS FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN WITH THE STATE.  
2:30 PM in Room 1B of the LOB

**I am AGAINST of An Act Creating A Process For Family Child Care Providers To Collectively Bargain With The State.**

TO: CO- Chairman, The Hon. Edith Prague, Co-Chair, The Hon. Zeke Zalaski, Vice-Chair, The Hon. Edwin Gomes, Vice-Chair, The Hon. Ezequiel Santiago, Ranking Member, The Hon. Anthony Guglielmo, Ranking Member, The Hon. John Rigby, Member, The Hon. Bill Aman, Member, The Hon. Lou Esposito, Member, The Hon. Ernest Hewett, Member, The Hon. David Kiner, The Member, Craig Miner

Dear Committee Members,

I am a licensed home daycare provider in my 16<sup>th</sup> year of business in Ellington. I would be in attendance at the hearing but I have families that require me to work. I feel I have been blessed to have the opportunity to run my own business out of my home caring for children of other families as well as my own. From the beginning, it has been a good experience for me. The regulations the state puts forth are very clear that the welfare and safety of the children in my care take priority. They are not difficult to implement in my home, especially since I started my business when my own three boys were very young and the house was already childproofed. In my daycare, I also run a preschool curriculum. I am proud to say every child in my care from infancy on up, have all been ready to start kindergarten. When I take in new families, we enter into a contract. No one signs unless all terms are in agreement. All in all, it has been a very good experience up until the fall of last year.

When Gov. Malloy unconstitutionally signed Executive Orders #9 & 10, these orders will potentially take away my freedom to run my own business as I see fit. The union will also be taking funds away from me that would be reinvested back into my business or to pay my own household expenses. Unless the legislature stops this bill, some of my hard earned money is going to be taken away from my business to pay a union I have no use for. When I would ask union representatives as to what will the union do for me, not one could give me a straight answer. All I kept hearing is that the union 'will give us a voice'. I have my own voice, thank you very much. I would not be running my own business if I could not speak up for myself. I have heard talk of raising wages....will they tell my families to cough up more money? I

negotiate with each family according to their individual needs and come up with a fair contract. I do not need a union for that. I have heard talk of improving work conditions.....I set my own hours, that is the beauty of running my own business. Is the union going to come into my home and renovate for me? That would be nice, but that will not be happening. Do I need the union to contact Care4kids for me if I have a problem with the paperwork? No, I've always dealt with it myself in the past and issues have always been resolved. When the union starts collecting dues, either I will have to take a pay cut or my parents will have to pay more to make up the difference. It will cause a further hardship for all parties involved instead of being helpful. The only party who stands to gain is the union.

Who is the union representing anyway? I cannot figure that out. It appears to be a bad joke perpetrated on small business owners who are very busy during the day. I have resented taking time out of my work day and disrupting my families to fight this when it should not even be an issue. If daycare providers across the state wanted to become unionized, it would have been done. WE DO NOT WANT IT! We have daycare associations across the state designed to support and educate providers. The best part is that it is voluntary, unlike these mandates handed down by the governor. The associations have the daycare providers' interest at heart. I cannot say that about a national union such as SEIU. They will take our money and fund political causes they are interested in supporting. It is no secret that Gov. Malloy and all the democrats are close allies with the unions. I was not even allowed a vote in this unionization effort. The only daycare providers who voted were taking part in the Care4Kids program and even some of those were not given ballots. With such underhanded schemes, why on earth would I think the unions would benefit me? If the unionization was going to affect all home daycare providers, we ALL should have had the opportunity to vote, not just a small fraction.

As a small business owner, neither the union nor the state, has any right taking my earnings for their own benefit. I love the work I do as a daycare provider and have gained many rich relationships with the children and families I care for. I would like to keep what I earn to reinvest into my business and help make ends meet for my own household. I also do not want to tell my families my rates have to increase to compensate for what the union is taking out of my pay. The Connecticut Assembly should not even take the bill for a vote as it sets a terrible precedent. What other small business will be next to be forcibly unionized? Last year, the state legislature did not take this bill to the floor because of the opposition. That opposition has not changed. If this bill comes to floor and passes, I will make the difficult decision to give up my business and the children I care for. It is a matter of principle. I will not be a slave to the state or a union.

Sincerely,

Christine S. Welton