

March 13, 2012  
Labor and Public Employees Committee

TESTIMONY OF DICK EDMONDS  
IN SUPPORT OF SB. 352,  
AN ACT CREATING A PROCESS FOR FAMILY DAYCARE PROVIDERS TO  
COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN WITH THE STATE

Dear Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, and Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Dick Edmonds and I am a retired state employee. I formerly held the position of Director of Community Based Regulation at the Department of Public Health. In that capacity I was responsible for the regulation of Connecticut's licensed child day care providers.

It is my pleasure to support Senate Bill No 352, an Act Creating a Process for Family Daycare Providers to Collectively Bargain with the State. This legislation will provide collective bargaining rights to family day care home providers who participate in the state subsidy system. This legislation is all about respect and recognition of the critical role that family day care providers play in the early care and education for so many children

Providing family day care providers the opportunity to negotiate collective bargaining agreements gives the providers a long needed seat at the table where decisions are made with respect to the provision and enhancement of quality child day care services. Their home day care experience and relationships with both children and parents brings a unique perspective that is necessary for the successful implementation of best practices in early care and education in family day care settings. As it has done in other states, collective bargaining for family child day care providers will be the catalyst for raising the qualifications of family day care providers through increased opportunities for education, training and professional development. Collective bargaining for family child day care providers is one of the necessary components of a successful strategy to close the achievement gap for children of low income families.

Thank you for your support of Senate Bill No. 352.

Dick Edmonds  
East Hampton, CT