

March 13, 2012
Labor and Public Employees Committee
In support of Senate Bill 352

My name is Flor Corales and I am writing in support of S.B. 352. I have provided care as a licensed childcare provider in New London for 4 years. I would like to request that Care4Kids work more closely with us providers, first in sending us our paychecks on time, second in decreasing the time needed to process applications, third in implementing direct deposit, and fourth in giving us access to health insurance.

I regret that I cannot come to the public hearing. I have 6 children in my care on Tuesday afternoons, so it is difficult to be present, but I am with you through this testimony. Thank you for thinking of us.

I want you to know that I am not a babysitter. I provide a structured day for the children. I have a set schedule posted on the wall with the activities we do from the time they arrive until they leave. I teach them their numbers, how to read, and how to pronounce words. I am doing this for the well-being of the children so that they are prepared when they enter kindergarten.

I make lunch for the children in my care and give them snacks. I spend my time engaging closely with them - we dance, for instance, and I teach them how to draw and play. When it isn't very cold out, I take them to the park or out on my patio, where I have toys for them to play with. They feel comfortable there.

We providers would like to have input in changes so that Care4Kids can support providers in taking care of children. For example, we spend hours calling Care4Kids and re-submitting paperwork that they did not receive that we could better spend caring for the children. Forming a contract between our childcare providers union and Care4Kids is the best way that we can have our voices heard to make positive changes. Please support SB 352.

Flor Corales
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