

March 7, 2012
Karen L. Markure
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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

As you know there is currently a proposal to create a union for the in-home daycares within Connecticut. As a person who has run a successful in-home day care for eleven years I am strongly this proposal. I am writing this letter to inform you of the specific reasons why I am so firmly set on not joining the union.

When I was a young child my father was a non-union iron worker. In the year of 1978 my father was put on a job site where the unionized iron workers were striking because they felt the amount of money they were being paid was not enough for the job. Needless to say the union members were not happy with other iron workers ruining the impact of their strike. I remember the threatening phone calls we received at home and people coming onto our property and smashing out the windows in my parent's vehicles. When my father went out to confront them he was attacked with a 2X4 piece of wood. He received a broken arm, broken ribs, and a broken jaw. When I saw my father in the hospital with all of his injuries I vowed to him that I would never work for a business that was a part of a union.

That promise to my father is one of the main reasons why I became my own self-employ in-home daycare provider, because I never thought that I would be forced to become part of a union if I was self-employed.

So that is why I am so strongly against becoming a part in the proposed union. From the experience with my father I have also learned that it does not matter if you are part of a union- you can still work for the state regardless. My dad did state jobs and got paid what the state was paying the union iron workers.

I do not understand how the Governor is able to decide who should create a union when he has never done their job. He doesn't understand that some of us providers are doing it for the enjoyment we get from watching these young children grow and learn, not only for the money. How can he decide what every one should do with their business when he isn't familiar with how each individual in-home daycare is run?

My perspective on the situation is- if it isn't broken don't fix it. Right now the state has other issues that need fixing and the people in charge should work to fix those problems before trying to reform in-home daycares. The state of Connecticut does not have enough money in the budget to raise the amount of payment that Care 4 Kids gives to us. Connecticut is already in a state of debt so where would this money be coming from?

Sincerely,



Karen L. Markure

Owner of Karen's Kids Care