

March 7, 2012

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Labor and Public Employees Committee
Room 3800, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106
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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.

I have been a Ct Licensed family child care provider since 1997. I take great pride in being a self-employed business owner. And after 15 years my business has been fortunate to thrive and have a great reputation. I teach my children to give back to the community and we do that by planting flowers at a local senior home, library and other places in town for Earth Day. We bring canned food to the Salvation Army and food banks. I teach them to be "Good Citizens" and to follow the "Golden Rule". Never once have I ever imagined that I would be forced to unionize against my will. Governor Malloy's Executive Order No 9. is an unlawful interference with the contract clause of the US Constitution. Specifically, it is an unconstitutional interference with my ability to contract with the parents of young children who would be attending my child care. It imposes another requirement to my agreement to take care of young children, namely, that I am in a union as a condition of your contracting to work for the parents of children who receive these funds. And not just family child care providers but this is also forcing relative caregivers, private ordinary citizens who participate in the Care 4 Kids Program. A program that any licensed provider can participate in at any given time. Furthermore, it is mandatory, as there is choice to opt out of the union. All of you have allowed this to happen because you failed to protect our freedoms. You were elected to serve us "The People of Connecticut" not the SEIU that had a hand in getting some of you elected like our Governor. This executive order should have been stopped in the legislature months ago that is your job after all to watch over our Governor as he has to answer to you doesn't he? But you failed to act upon it or stop because of the Democratic Majority on both sides of the aisle. You all had a hand in him taking away my civil right to choose what is best for my own personal business. **Shame** on you for allowing such an abusive over reach of government power. Are you going to let this injustice continue or are you finally going to send a clear message to our State's Dictator that enough is enough? Do what you know in your heart to be the true and legal thing to do? **VOTE NO!**

SEIU Says that we should have a legal seat at the collective bargaining table then please tell me who is my employer? Last time I checked it was me, myself and I. Who is the SEIU or Governor Malloy to tell me that I cannot effectively run my business? I can collective bargain for myself and have been for the past 15 years and developed a great policy book in the process without them. If there's an issue that may develop that I am not sure about I call my licensure and they give me the guidance I need. Who is this contract going to be with? Remember that I am self-employed there is no employer employee relationship. How does that contract have any force of law? It will be unmanageable because at any given time a Child Care Provider may have a child whose parents receive these funds, or may not have children receiving these funds. Do they have to be in the union if they start in it, like myself, and then if the children they are taking care of no longer receive this funding what then? How soon after getting a child who receives this government money does the child care provider have to join the union, instantly? It is not right to have to pay membership dues, non-members fees and mandatory agency fees, if this is a voluntary union as they have told us time and again then what is with all these fees. Sounds like coercion to me, and not too voluntary.

I have not raised my rates in 7 years because families are struggling and we need each other that is what Family Child Care is all about. How is the raising cost of living in this tough economy and by adding union dues to the cost structure of running my childcare business going to reduce the costs to struggling parents and provide them with better quality child care and provide me with a more stable income and better education? If you cannot give me a clear answer to that question then **VOTE NO!** It isn't going to be when I have to pass the cost down to them. I am one of the lower charging providers in my town if they cannot afford me what will they do? Who will watch their children? Will they be left home alone so their parents can work to put food on the table? Will parents be able to keep their jobs or be forced to go on welfare because no family child care provider is left to watch their child because the union forced them to go out of business? I have been talking to a provider in Ohio who is in this same union. She pays \$25.00 a month in dues, has no contract and gets nothing from them. Funny where is the famous contract they love to talk about? No educational trainings and her husband carries the health benefits and she didn't qualify for them anyway. She pays \$300.00 a year for nothing but lies. I am on a tight budget now and cannot afford another bill neither can my families. I don't even have life insurance for my family. I am sure that all of you have that in case something happens to you. My husband is also a struggling self-employed business owner (Automotive one man shop) and together we don't even have a retirement plan we live from paycheck to paycheck and now I'll be forced to pay union fees. When are you going to allow us to keep what we earn? How can one man decide this for me? Members of this committee you can choose to do what is right here today by opposing this bill and **sending a message to Governor Malloy** or by passing and standing with your Dictator and risking losing your own Legislative seat in this years election. Because I assure you we will not forget you and we will support your opponents this fall. It is my choice and I choose **AGAINST** being in a union. **PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL!** Thank you!

Sincerely,


Laurie Wojnarowski
Cozy Bear Day Care