

March 13, 2012
Labor and Public Employees Committee
In Support of S.B. 352

My name is Michelle Garrett. I've been doing C4K in Hartford for about 4-5 years, but I was also a parent on Maximus and C4K when it started. I take care of my two grandkids, Kyshawn and Zahnari; their ages are 4 and 2.

They're here with me all day. I make sure that they're well taken care of- fed, bathed, and clothed- I do it all. I also teach them their ABC's, numbers and colors, how to pronounce words so that they say them correctly, and I let them play outside for a little bit. Plus, I potty-train them to get them prepared for school. A lot of parents don't have time for potty-training, so that's part of why they need us providers. They only have some days off, but we're with the children all the time. These are valuable skills for my grandkids to learn.

As a provider, there are things I need to better support my grandkids and their education; like access to supplies, computers, writing materials, and play materials for example. They need these things for their development. They help me teach them how to recognize their colors and certain materials. It will help improve their learning skills and the general quality of their education.

I would, as a provider, also like to obtain information about getting my license. I've heard about getting my license through the state, but I don't know where to ask for that information. Getting my license would allow me to provide for more kids. This would help me to be more financially stable, while doing my part to improve the quality of education for the children in my care. Maybe someday I could open my own daycare, to really better myself professionally and help families that need providers.

That's why it's so important that I have a voice in this process. I think that I and other childcare providers are the most qualified for the job that we have, so we know what needs to change on our behalf and on the behalf of the kids. That's why I voted yes for our union.

So, please listen to my voice and vote to support collective bargaining.

Michelle Garrett, Hartford