



PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

**Testimony by Mayor Pedro E. Segarra
City of Hartford
House Bill 352**

**An Act Creating A Process For Family Child Care Providers to Collectively Bargain With the State
March 13, 2012, 2:30PM in Hearing Room 1B**

Co-Chairmen Prague and Zalaski, Ranking Members Guglielmo and Rigby, Vice-Chairmen Gomes and Santiago, and Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in support of House Bill 352, An Act Creating A Process For Family Child Care Providers to Collectively Bargain With the State.

This bill is incredibly important because of the vast number who will be affected by it. Presently there are over 13,000 Connecticut families who rely upon 4,100 family child care providers.¹ Family child care providers give parents greater freedom to choose the type of care that is the best fit for the child while affording them the important opportunity to work. Sadly, however, the providers earn very low incomes and lack quality health care insurance. This is further compounded by the fact that limited training opportunities exist and the state has not increase reimbursement rates in the last 10 years.

Last year Governor Malloy signed an executive order that gave family child care providers who participate in the Care4Kids program the ability to join a union. By an overwhelming margin (95%), these workers chose CSEA as their bargaining representative. Working together, I am confident that the Department of Social Services and family child care providers can reduce high turnover rates and continue to increase child care options.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important piece of legislation. The City of Hartford urges favorable passage of Senate Bill 352.

¹ As of December 2011, there were 661 providers and 1548 kids in the Hartford area in the Care4Kids program.