

March 13, 2012

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

RE. S.B. 352 – AN ACT CREATING A PROCESS FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN WITH THE STATE.

Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

My name is Robin Willoughby and I am a resident of New Haven, CT and I am writing today in support of S.B. 352. I have been a childcare provider for 4 years now. The work that I do is crucial as it helps shape the rest of these children's lives. Besides reading activities, we also do outdoor activities when it is nice outside. I also make sure they are fed during every meal and that they have a balanced diet. In addition, I teach them good manners and proper behavior. Sometimes kids come in while sick and it is my responsibility to take care of them and make them feel comfortable.

Through this I have formed a bond with these children and they have learned to trust me. I put a lot of money in my business. I buy cots for the babies, pay for cable, educational materials, flash cards and I take them out to eat from time to time.

Ensuring that I maintain my daycare at this high standard has been a challenge because of the limited monthly subsidy we get from Care4Kids. By having collective bargaining, we will be able to do better at our job, ensuring continued quality childcare to the children. It will also give us a voice and ensure we are treated with respect in our profession.

Robin Willoughby
New Haven, CT