

March 9, 2012

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Labor and 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

I am writing on behalf of parents like myself, who would be adversely impacted by the passage of this legislative act. A majority of households are run by single or dual earners and parents need affordable daycare options so that they may remain employed and able to sustain their households. Even now, the sky high cost of daycare is a struggle for most families to meet, and yet it is a necessity. Allowing unions to enter into the daycare system would only increase the cost of care, a cost that would be passed on to the parents. A majority of families do not qualify for assistance from organizations like Kids-for-Care and yet the passage of this act would put day care firmly out of their financial reach. What, then are the parents supposed to do? If they must leave their jobs in order to care for their children, then the only answer would be to further burden our beleaguered state by going on welfare assistance. That is NOT the direction we should be heading in.

In addition, I feel my daughter benefits from a home run family daycare because there is much more of an emphasis on the children as developing individuals on a one-on-one basis than in a larger daycare facility. My child and others like her develop a bond with their caregiver and vice-versus that is important to her development. Studies show that children benefit most and develop better when they receive individualized attention from trusted caregivers with which they have formed a bond. Studies also show that children need stability and consistency. In a larger daycare facility there is always revolving personnel and turn-over as well as schedule changes, and a lack of individual, personal attention to the children. This would have an adverse impact on my daughter and is not the kind of care that I, or other parents, would choose. As parents we should have the right to choose from several daycare options. Additionally these larger, child

"warehouses" charge higher prices for their overhead costs, and expense that gets passed on to the parents.

There are already regulations, laws, rules, and general guidelines that self-employed home daycare providers are required to follow. I see no benefit to any home daycare provider or any self-employed party that is forced to collectively bargain with the state. Other than the state or representative collecting fees for financial gain, there is no benefit to the actual providers. They will not need to file a grievance on themselves. Keep the unions representing the bigger businesses, where there is a much greater need for representation, and stay out of the small business owners that will force good hard working providers to close their doors and cause the state of Connecticut to lose a good amount of small businesses that they claim to help grow. Unless, there is a benefit to all parents or legal guardians who will NOT be forced to pay higher prices for a program that is already funded by tax dollars that most parents pay. Leave collective bargaining with the state for the little guys out!

Sincerely,

Tammy L. Johanns

Tammy L. Johanns  
Optional Business Name Here