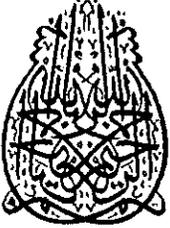


سَمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

With Allah's Name, The Merciful Benefactor, The Merciful Redeemer.

Muhammad Islamic Center of Greater Hartford



March 13, 2012

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

Administration

Resident Imam
Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim
Treasurer
Richard El-Amin
Secretary of Community Affairs
Sadiq Abdur Rahim Ali
Executive Assistant
Khaliq Abdul-Karim
Majlis Ash-Shura

Special Events
Carolyn El-Amin
Director of Islamic Education

Awad Abdullah
Ryan Carter

Entrepreneurship
Anthony Griffin

Financial Benefactors
Sajdah Sharief

Human Services
Linda Miller

International /Masjid Relations
Adabi Abdul Karim

Reconstruction and Development
Muhammad Abdullah

Finance Deptment
Dawud Shareefudeen

Security
Hassan Nasif

Youth and Technology
Rasheed Ali

Youth Coordinator
Nasiha Atkins

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim. I am the Imam of the Muhammad Islamic Center of Greater Hartford. On behalf of my congregation and those who pray at the Muhammad Islamic Center, just a few blocks away, the Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice, The Leadership Council for Connecticut Masajid, The interfaith Fellowship for Universal Health Care, and the American Coalition for Good Government, I address you today, in support of SB 352 and HB 5433. This is an issue that directly affects our local community and the state at large.

Home health care workers and home child care workers are doing God's work. They are taking care of the elderly, of babies, of people with disabilities. They care for the most innocent and weak people in our community. The home healthcare workers and child care workers are paid with the former tax dollars of the elderly and the prime citizens of our community; young parents, but today their love ones are the most neglected. The care of the elderly and our children should be a priority, at the top of the ladder. Structuring a mechanism to make this effective is really a God given obligation. It's strange that the most necessary functions in society are not respected. Education, Healthcare, and Child Care are just a few examples.

People want to be self-sufficient. People want to take care of themselves. People want a sense of pride. Health care and child care workers are of this nature. When people are in crisis they call on their Masajid or Churches for help. Our Masajid and Churches are called on to fill in the gap and provide charity when folks cannot get by on their own.

We are asking you to vote on this bill favorably because you will help people become more structured, and enabled to help themselves. You will give them the potential to lift themselves a little higher as a collective. As a resident of Hartford we will see an immediate improvement for almost 1000 residents in our city.

Thank you for listening and thank you for helping our people help themselves.

Imam Kashif Abdul-Karim