

March 13, 2012

Testimony to support Senate Bill 352

AN ACT CREATING A PROCESS FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN WITH THE STATE.

My name is Almancia Cuevas. I have been a licensed daycare provider for one year and I am writing in support of S.B.352. I live in New London and provide care for three full-time children during the day and four full-time children in the evenings. I begin my day at 7:30am and finish at midnight. Being a provider is a huge responsibility – when parents entrust us providers with their children, they expect that we will treat them as though they were our own children. We also provide them with a healthy diet while they are in our care – we must try to give the children the best.

Care4Kids should make improvements for all of the providers and parents who are involved with the program and work very hard. I would like to see specific changes, such as a deduction for taxes; access to health insurance; and when parents apply, the process doesn't take so much time. All these things are important to providing a quality daycare. \$10-20/week, which is my usual parent co-pay (aside from the subsidy), is what I receive while parents wait to be approved or denied from the program. I can't charge them more – the parents who are on Care4Kids qualify because they can't afford private pay rates. The Care4Kids subsidy rate doesn't account for the work I do, especially if they do not qualify and I do not receive retroactive pay from Care4Kids.

We providers would also like for our checks to be directly deposited into our accounts so that they arrive on time.

I, Almancia Cuevas, support forming a union and negotiating a contract between the state and my union to improve Care4Kids. Please vote for yes on SB 352.

Almancia Cuevas
New London, CT