

To: Members of the Labor Committee

Re: In support of Bill #

Date: March 8, 2012

My name is Kathleen Mayo and I have been a state licensed daycare provider for just about 18 yrs. now. I also have raised four of my own children.

I am writing to show my support of collective bargaining for family daycare providers in Ct. I feel it is necessary in order to assure both the children and providers in Ct have a voice.

I pride myself in providing a safe and loving home for the children I care for. I provide healthy meals and preschool education for the children in my care.

As much as I love what I do I am going to face a very hard choice in the very near future. I will probably have to give up my daycare and take a job outside of my home when my husband retires. I am diabetic and will need to get a job that provides me with health insurance. Although my husband will be old enough for Medicare I will not. Being self employed with no benefits has it's challenges. The only way to get insurance will be to give up my daycare and take a job with an employer that provides health insurance. I will have to forfeit my love and care for children in order to make sure I can receive the care I need.

I also have found Care4Kids to be rather frustrating to deal with. I have filled out the same forms in duplicate numerous times. I don't get paid until the middle of the following month, and I accept less than my rate as the families in need can't really afford my rates. I feel the need to help these families but I end up taking a loss in the process.

The children in my care deserve the best that I can offer. I feel it is necessary to have collective bargaining statute in order to assure the children may continue to receive high quality early education in our in home daycares. I love what I do and I pride myself in doing it well. I love the children in my care as if they were my own.

I am asking for support for the bill for collective bargaining for home-based daycare providers like myself. United together we can assure the best for our children, and for our providers.

Sincerely,

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