

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

Dear Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

My name is Melissa Phillips and I write in support of Senate Bill No. 352, An Act Concerning Collective Bargaining Rights for Family Daycare Providers.

As parents we would love to stay home with our child and care for him. With the economy as it is we do not have that option and need two sources of steady income. While I was pregnant we thought about childcare and worried that our son may not get the care and attention he needed. We interviewed a family daycare provider named Kathy Mayo and we knew we'd found just the right home daycare environment for so many reasons.

The flexibility and accessibility of Kathy has been one of the most invaluable things that have kept our lives running smoothly. We know we can call Kathy anytime, day or night if we run into scheduling problems or if we have questions regarding our son. We can even text her or email her and know we'll get an answer right away. We have peace of mind knowing our son is safe every moment of the day in Kathy's home.

There were two situations where we feel our provider went above and beyond the call. One situation, where we knew without a doubt that we had our son in the right hands, was June 1, 2011. I was on my way to pick up my son during some bad weather. Earlier that day I got a text of the tornado warning and figured "We live in Massachusetts, we don't get tornados here!" I had no clue that on my way I would encounter an F4 tornado. I was able to outdrive it without any physical damage but was extremely shaken up. When I reached Kathy's house I found her with my son in her arms and every precaution taken. She was listening to the news with him (he was the only child there at the time) and with everything ready to run and bunker down in the basement if needed, not even knowing that there was an actual tornado out there. She took all reports seriously and had a plan in place.

Another situation was a couple of months later we experienced the October snow storm. Due to this storm we lost power for the full week. During this week we were able to call Kathy anytime to check and see the status of her daycare. She was fortunate enough to regain power within a few days, though unable to open, and even though she was not open she offered her house to her families if we needed anything. We were even able to take our son over for a much needed warm bath.

On another occasion our son was showing signs of getting sick. In addition to the loving care given to him by Kathy, she gave me much needed advice as well and she let me know