

March 13, 2012

In Support of Senate Bill 352

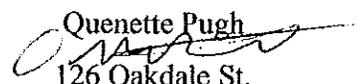
My name is Quenette Pugh. I live in Bridgeport and I have ran a licensed in-home daycare for over 20 years and I support SEIU Union .

I take pride in my job and I love what I do. My doors are open 24hrs a day, 7 days a week. I prepare for a fun, educational day for children and a peace of mind for parents. These parents depend on me to be a part of their child's educational and social development. That is a role I take very seriously. I prepare a monthly calendar stating the daily activities, along with a semi-annual progress report card to keep the parents informed.

I am an educator, doctor, chef and a therapist all in one. I teach the children manners (helping others, sharing and respect), how to spell, sign language, recognize the alphabet and numbers, and much more. I provide a wide variety of toys for indoor and outdoor activities, musical instruments and educational materials for the children so they can grow and learn. I work one on one with the children everyday to prepare them for their future as students, as friends, and as citizens.

For all of this, I earn only \$4.44 an hour, working 9 hours per child. Sometimes I earn less because parents are unable to pay their parent portion. This amount is not sufficient enough to fund the educational materials and toys for the children, food, utilities and all of the other expenses that come along with running a licensed in-home day care facility. I am given only \$1,000.00 per year to cover all of my dental expenses. I am one of the luck few because I receive health insurance through my husband, but it is still inadequate. I have met in-home day care providers who have no insurance at all.

I am not alone in my concerns for the children and families served by in-home day care providers. We want to give the best we can for them, but we are restrained with limited funds, the unneeded stress of not having affordable, quality, comprehensive health insurance, and little to no access to training. I know the situation can improve.

Quenette Pugh

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