

Bianca, Pam

From: VanSambeck, Mike
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2013 10:02 AM
To: Bianca, Pam
Subject: FW: CT HB 6432

From: Maria Ciannavei [<mailto:mariaciannavei@comfortkeepers.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2013 12:26 AM
To: VanSambeck, Mike
Cc: mariaciannavei@comfortkeepers.com
Subject: CT HB 6432

2/26/13

Please accept this e-mail as my comment on CT Dept. of Labor Bill HB 6432:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased that the CT DOL is introducing HB 6432, a bill designed to eradicate misclassification of caregiver employees by Registry model homemaker-companion businesses, and believe this bill should be voted favorably

Caregivers are employees--not independent contractors. In Connecticut, all homemaker-companion agencies--with the exception of registries--have for years recognized that such workers deserve the protections of unemployment, workers' compensation and employee-bases wages. It's time for registries to follow suit.

Misclassification is a grave problem. It cheats workers and puts consumers at risk of liability for caregiver injuries and payment of employment-based taxes.

The bill should also make it clear that misclassification exists when individuals or families "hire" a caregiver "off the street" and do not treat that caregiver as an employee. In other words, the bill should say that a private individual or family that independently hires a caregiver must treat that caregiver as an employee with the appropriate payment of taxes and protection against injury.

The Registry model is also, in my opinion, a lower quality of care for the consumer, as the caregiver is often without supervision. The Registry model is also a lower standard of work for caregivers, as they are without any of the protections that come from working as an employee, such as when an on the job injury occurs.

In closing, I encourage the committee to vote favorably for HB 6432. Now is the time to level the field and hold Registry model businesses to the same standard of work place practices as all businesses in Connecticut and end this misclassification and mistreatment of hardworking caregivers.

Thank you.

Maria O. Ciannavei
Owner

Comfort Keepers
116 Cottage Grove Road Suite 205
Bloomfield CT 06002
Office - 860-242-7739/Fax - 860-242-7830
mariaciannavei@comfortkeepers.com
www.comfortkeepers.com
CT DCP.HCA.0000563



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