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**Human Services Committee  
March 12, 2015  
Senate Bill 1044 – Support**

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, and members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Miriam Paredes and I have been a child care provider in Meriden for ten years. I love what I do. Helping to raise the next generation is as satisfying a job as anyone could have. I am lucky, because I have some children who are on subsidy and some that are not. It's tough for me and for the parent when they come to me as a Care 4 Kids family. In order for me to survive, I have to set my fees a bit higher than what Care 4 Kids will pay. I know this is a hardship for families because it means they have to come up with the difference between what Care 4 Kids pays and my fee. But I have no choice. The Care 4 Kids program needs more money so parents don't have to struggle so much AND they need to expand eligibility to families with higher income.

I am a member of the child care union, CSEA SEIU Local 2001. When union members explained that Senate Bill 1044 was being raised, I was thrilled. Levying a fee on large profitable corporations to help pay for the state-subsidized supports that their employees need to get and keep a job makes total sense to me. Where else are we going to get the money to improve the child care system? Right now, it's middle income people like me that help pay those fees through our system of taxation. That does not seem fair to me.

Care for Kids has a lot of problems that make life difficult for me and for parents. What is needed is an infusion of money to make everyone's life less stressful, including the workers at Care 4 Kids! They don't make much money either. My heart goes out to the children when I see parents so stressed about work, paying my fee, and how to work in spending time with their children. There is just so much I can do. Believe me, when parents ask for financial assistance, it really is needed. Parents need this help in order to keep working and provide for their families. We as care givers need you to provide us with what we need so that we can work with these families.

If that means charging the low-paying big box stores and fast food restaurants a fee then we should do that. Please vote yes on SB 1044

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