

**Education Committee
March 6, 2019**

**Senate Bill 931 – Support
Senate Bill 935 – Support
Senate Bill 937 – Support**

Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, and members of the Education Committee:

My name is Shelta Wilson and I have been a family child care provider in the New Haven area for 18 years. I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 931, An Act Concerning Payments To Child Care Providers and Senate Bill No. 935, An Act Requiring The Office Of Early Childhood To Develop An Early Childhood Educator Compensation Schedule.

Family child care providers should be treated fairly, and to me, that means fixing the Care 4 Kids payment system and ensuring that child care providers are paid in a timely fashion. Right now Connecticut's Care 4 Kids system is falling short. Documents take a long time to process and we are not getting paid on time; it takes months to receive payments in many instances.

In mid-February, I was finally paid for the child care services I delivered in November. I had gotten my car reprocessed and my credit was damaged because my payments from the state were three months late. Paying my bills late led to late fees, and that's a serious problem. The instability that this is causing is putting our entire child care system in jeopardy as many providers are having to shut their doors. I understand that this takes time to update computer systems, but right now the Care 4 Kids program seems to be operating on two systems, both the new system and the old system. We need to do better.

I also encourage you to support, Senate Bill No. 937, An Act Concerning A Student Loan Forgiveness Program For Early Childhood Educators. This is a good bill that will help many child care providers with education loans who are struggling.

Shelta Wilson,
New Haven, Connecticut