

# Housing Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6291

AN ACT CONCERNING PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN GROUP CHILD CARE

**Title:** AND FAMILY CARE HOMES.

**Vote Date:** 3/7/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/14/2019

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Housing Committee:

Rep. Roland Lemar, 96th Dist.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The need for more group child and family care homes are in demand and this bill extends the rules concerning this issue. This law puts protections for licensed group child care and family care homes and also prevents landlords and homeowners associations from putting restrictions on the operations of these homes.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Stated.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Eva Bermúdez-Zimmerman, Director of Childcare, CSEA SEIU Local 2001; supports this bill, stating that the increase in licensed child care is critical to the wellbeing of Connecticut's children and families. It was stated that Connecticut faces a shortage in childcare and legislation that addresses and helps to create a process for easier access to in-home based care will help close this shortage. It was noted that more infants died last year in unregulated care than in the previous five years.

Amy Eppler-Epstein, Attorney, New Haven Legal Assistance; supports this bill, expressing the importance of licensed home day cares and ensuring the licensing standards are being met. It is noted that under current law, municipalities cannot prohibit licensed home day cares

from operating in any zones in which single or multi-family homes are permitted, however allows landlords to prohibit their tenants from operating a licensed home daycare and evict them for doing so.

Merrill Gay, Executive Director, CT Early Childhood Alliance; supports this bill, stating it will clarify and extend protections that currently cover homes from restrictive zoning and prohibit restrictions from landlords, homeowners and other groups from using leases or covenant provisions to restrict child care homes.

Kayla Goldfarb, Policy Analyst, CT Association for Human Services; supports this bill because it will clarify and enforce existing protections that limit local zoning restrictions on family child and group care homes as well as prohibit restrictions from landlords, homeowners and other groups from using leases or covenant provisions to restrict child care homes.

Erin Kemple, Executive Director, CT Fair Housing Center; supports this bill.

Emmanuella Lauture, Owner, Ma Maison Childcare; supports this bill, stating that expanding her child care program which would give more children and families in communities access to quality care.

Natalie Vieira, Policy Associate, All Our Kin; supports this bill, stating that 44% of the population in the state of Connecticut live with little or no access to quality care and child care shortages are particularly acute for the state's youngest children.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

Zachary McKeown, Legislative Associate, CT Conference of Municipalities; opposes this bill, stating that it would place restrictions on local zoning and could potentially strip municipalities from receiving state funding if municipalities did not comply.

**Reported by: Joe Begnal**

**Date: 3/14/19**