Testimony regarding: S.B. No. 931 AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Submitted By:
Rhonda Knowles

Good afternoon Sen. McCrory, Rep. Sanchez, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Rhonda Knowles, and I live in West Haven, Ct 06516.

I am honored to be presenting testimony on the issue of S.B. No. 931 AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

This is an issue that is very important to me. I am a Early Childhood Educator. I have been a Family Provider for 30 years. I have been with the Care 4 kids program for several years now. With the payment scale they have set for us, Once the infants move into the three year old slot. The drop in payment goes down drastically. Even though the child stays with you until he or she enters kindergarten. It is also, a challenge to wait 5 weeks for payment. Now that my parents are coming up for redetermination. We were told We must be patient. Why? Care4kids is running four months behind looking at the paperwork. As they move forward to change over the system. I did not receive a letter, nor e-mail to advise me of such a delay. I had my eyes dotted and T's crossed. I did my part. The families have done their part. I'm sorry. But please be patient is just not acceptable. This system change over was known to Care 4 kids well in advance. Someone at the top dropped the ball. I would like to know. Who did it? And how will you assure provider's this will never happened again.

I feel we should be paid wages that can keep providers in this profession. Plus encourage others to want to become part of Early Educators. You are forcing providers to give up a profession, they love because of the lack of concern in how and when we are paid. And the lack of respect for what we have achieved. If there have been No increases in years. I would like and explanation, why? We are a vital part in our youth's education. Please make us a top priority in moving Connecticut forward.

This is an issue that will impact the educational well-being and future of Connecticut’s young children, and requires immediate action. If provider's know they will be paid on time. Fare wages for the long hours they work. Some have a 10 hour workday. Or longer. We will be able to focus more on our Daycare families. To do the job we love. Educating and preparing our youth for kindergarten and life. Knowing this will be one less thing to worry about. Is care 4 kids open or
closed.? Or making changes that will impact us. Where it hurts, in our pay check. We need and deserve a piece of mind on this issue. Happy provider, Happy parents. It is a win win.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify about S.B. No. 931 AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS. Thank you for your consideration.