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

My name is Shanette Bynum and I am a family child care provider from Bridgeport. 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.

Parents need the Care 4 Kids program. No one wants to work a job and feel like all of their income is going to pay for the child care they need to do that job. People need to get ahead. In this way, the Care 4 Kids is critical. I see parents who are going through so much that it becomes difficult to keep up with their bills. If Care 4 Kids doesn’t come through, I’m going to have to work on payment plans for parents to cover their child care.

With the old Care 4 Kids computer system, we would submit our paperwork on the first of the month and get our payments usually by the 10th of the month. With the new system, it is taking an extra week or even two weeks before we receive payment, when we receive payments.

My first issue with late payments started back in July, 2018. I had two new families who did everything they were asked to do and it took until late December for one parent’s Care 4 Kids payments to come in and it took waiting from July until mid-January for the other parent. I keep having situations like that. I have another parent who was already on Care 4 Kids and submitted paperwork in January, I still haven’t gotten their payments because Care 4 Kids is still working on processing paperwork from November. We are now in March. I was told yesterday that Care 4 Kids doesn’t know when they will be caught up. At this rate, for the parent who started in January, maybe I will be paid in June?

Shanette Bynum
Bridgeport, CT