



Susan Bysiewicz

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

February 18, 2020

Senator Anwar, Rep. McGee, Senator Hwang, Rep. Zullo and the honorable members of the Housing Committee:

As chair of the Governor's Council on Women and Girls, I am writing to express the Council's support of **HB 5121 An Act Concerning Certain Protections for Group and Family Child Care Homes**.

Upon taking office in January 2019, one of our administration's first actions was to form the Governor's Council on Women and Girls, comprised of the Governor's cabinet members, representatives from each of the other constitutional offices and representatives from each of the four major legislative caucuses. The mission of the council is to provide a coordinated state response to issues that impact the lives of women, girls, their families, and the State of Connecticut. The council is charged with focusing on four areas of impact, each represented by its own subcommittee: education and STEAM; economic opportunity and workforce equity; leadership; and health and safety. The council, through its subcommittees, works with an over 100 organization Steering Committee of organizations that voluntarily dedicate their time to support council priorities and assist us in our work to make equality and advancement for women and girls a true state-wide effort.

The Council on Woman and Girls is supporting this legislation because it is important that Connecticut facilitate an increase in the supply of licensed child care that meets the needs of Connecticut's working families. By clarifying, enforcing, and expanding housing and zoning protections for licensed group child care and family child care homes we can provide women and families desperately needed licensed affordable in-home options.

Increasing the number of licensed home-based family and group child care programs will greatly assist families whose primary caretakers work nontraditional hours while providing their children with a healthy, safe and nurturing setting that is often more affordable than center-based care and may reflect the language, culture and values of the community served.

Home-based child care programs are critically important to Connecticut's economy and the economic wellbeing of many women and families. These programs afford the opportunity for parents to participate in the workforce so that they may financially support their families.



Susan Bysiewicz

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

The members of the Council on Women and Girls and I are committed to working with the Housing Committee and the Office of Early Childhood to further advance this bill. We are looking forward to partnering with you in these efforts.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Bysiewicz".

Susan Bysiewicz
Lieutenant Governor
State of Connecticut