Testimony February 23, 2023

HB 6659, AA Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30,2025 and Making Appropriations, therefore.

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Members of the Committee. My name is Ana Flores, and I live in New Britain, Connecticut. I'm here today as a proud participant of the Childcare Incubator Project offered by YWCA of New Britain, a training program that supports me as a Family Child Care Home Provider Entrepreneur. Participating the training that includes licensing, early childhood, business and financial literacy, and how to become a provider knowing all the aspects, at the end of the project, I am able to open my own family home childcare business serving six children either in the own incubator space or my own home.

I am here today on behalf of current family childcare businesses and also potential entrepreneurs who want to start a business in the childcare industry. I am here to ask for funding for the Family Child Care Incubator Pilot Projects authorized in PA 21-171.

I am fortunate to participate of this great initiative program to start my business, that would allow me to open my day care either in their space or in my own home. This opportunity allows me to support myself and my own children, while I am supporting the New Britain community. I know other New Britain residents and friends who don't have their own home, because of lack of space in their home, and face barriers with landlords who don't allow childcare on the property. The Incubator Childcare Project - YWCA of New Britain, trains and support others to get ready and have a strong foundation to start their business as a Family Child Care Provider owner. This would help the need in the New Britain Community of childcare and allowing families to return to work.

Family Child Care providers number are 33 in the New Britain area and the need is very great.

I urge you to fund Family Child Care Incubators in the Office of Early Childhood budget to help small businesses provide desperately needed childcare to working families in New Britain.

Thank you.