

1. Name:

Maria Gonzalez Reyes

2. Email:

3. Town *

New Haven

4. I am a: *

Please select at most 2 options.

☐

Parent

☒

Childcare Provider

☐

Early Childhood Educator

☐

Community Organization

☐

Employer

☐

Advocate

☐

Other

5. Type or paste your Testimony here: *

My name is Maria E. Gonzalez-Reyes. I am relatively new as a Home-Based Child Care Provider, but I have experience in this field because I worked as a teacher's assistant for several years at a daycare center. During the pandemic, I lost my job and decided to open my own business by obtaining my license to care for children in my home. With the support of some fellow child care providers and an investment using some savings, I was able to implement my program with some success, but after a while, things became difficult because I couldn't access grants or loans due to the overly complicated procedures, and also because of a frustrating experience during an inspection where I felt humiliated and scared. Because of this, I decided to close my business, leaving me without a job or income, with many debts and an uncertain future, and also very sad because my passion is working with children. Fortunately, thanks to the recommendation of the same child care providers who supported me from the beginning, I was able to keep my license active, and last year I reopened my program. Now, what I need most is all the necessary financial support to maintain my business and, therefore, my family. I am a single mother with a daughter whom I want to give the best possible education. I enjoy working with children, I am prepared, and I learn every day. I would like the aid, funds, and all existing resources to maintain and strengthen home-based child care businesses like mine to reach us directly without excessive paperwork or requirements. The State knows the status of our licenses and the number of children our licenses allow us to care for; but I believe they don't know or don't realize the true value of the work we do every day. To conclude, now that they are going to start distributing the surplus of our contributions, I would like this distribution to be fair and equitable. I would like them to recognize that our work in Family Child Care Homes is just as important, or perhaps even more so, than in other places such as centers or schools, and therefore, when distributing benefits, these should be equal to or better than those of the other places mentioned. I say this with firsthand knowledge, because as I said at the beginning; I worked for several years at a daycare center.

Sincerely ,

Maria E. Gonzalez-Reyes
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