



New Jersey Family Child Care Providers' Association
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December 14, 2010

Senator Shirley K. Turner
1440 Pennington Road
Trenton, New Jersey 08618

Re: NJ Senate Bill No. 2382, Legislation to Require Mandatory Registration for
Family Child Care Providers along with Criminal History Background Checks

Dear Senator Turner:

The Board of Directors of the New Jersey Family Child Care Providers' Association, an Affiliate Member of the National Association for Family Child Care, has reviewed Senate Bill No. 2382, and has come to the consensus not to support this bill as it stands.

The NJFCCPA supports the majority of this Bill. We support mandatory registration for family child care providers and criminal background checks, as well as more frequent monitoring to assure quality standards are met. We support the current practice of Child Abuse Record Information (C.A.R.I.) checks for household members over the age of 14; in addition to proposed criminal background checks for providers and household members over the age of 18.

However, with regard to Union Representation, and the provision to "permit family child care providers to select an exclusive majority representative to represent them as provided in this section," we feel this selection has been taken away from family child care providers. Executive Order 23, signed August 2, 2006, automatically made all providers members of a Union and required them to "opt out" via a mail-in card. All of the providers, enrolled without their knowledge or prior consent, have union dues automatically deducted from state payments they may earn.

Unfortunately, the providers who are automatically made union members have not been offered health benefits, retirement benefits, or any other substantial union member benefit known to us. It is our desire to help union inducted family child care providers obtain benefits similar to other self-employed union members, such as plumbers, electricians, etc. Those self-employed workers are offered medical and retirement benefits through their Unions. We would like to see the New Jersey provider Unions offer the same to New Jersey family child care providers.

Furthermore, we would like this legislation to reflect that most providers in New Jersey are not receiving subsidy payments, and therefore are not represented by the Unions governed by Executive Order 23, signed August 2, 2006. Therefore, majority representation for registered family child care providers cannot be assumed to be the Unions.

The New Jersey Family Child Care Providers' Association supports mandatory registration, criminal background checks and quality enhancement for the benefit of all children and their families utilizing New Jersey family child care programs. Recent Federal legislation is pending which will require family child care providers on the Federal Child and Adult Food Program to undergo criminal background checks, and New Jersey statutes should align with federal statutes and require this of all family child care providers.

Our Executive Board welcomes the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these issues in further detail.

Sincerely,

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