

My name is Tami Dodge. I have been a registered child care provider in St. Albans for almost 21 years. I have also been a provider leader for almost 20 years. I am a licensed teacher here in the state of VT and have been an Act 166 provider for 16 years.

Hello Representative Rosenquist,

I am writing today about H171. I was asked by Karen Hebert if I would be willing to give my comments on the bill.

I read the bill last night and I just want to make sure I understand what it is saying. To me, it looks like money is going to be directed to the Financial Assistance program with the plan of, over time, ensuring that parents pay less out of pocket for child care expenses. I do think that giving access to the Financial Assistance program to a wider range of parents will be beneficial. I also saw that anyone in the field of Early Childhood education whether they are a Registered home, center-based program or public based program will have access to scholarships for continuing education classes. I also see that there will be an option for loan forgiveness, but the educator would have to choose one or the other not both.

One thing that struck me was the phrase qualified educator. Many registered home providers do not feel like they are included when the word qualified is used with educator. They feel qualified only applies to those with a college degree. I would like to see the word experienced used along side qualified because we have such a large number of home providers that have many years of experience. In those years, providers have taken a wide range of professional development opportunities. Most child care providers take more than the required number of professional development hours. Their experiences in their program are helping them create their professional development plans and that is how they are mapping their professional development needs.

Please feel free to ask me any questions you might have for a registered home provider.

Sincerely,
Tami Dodge

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)