

Mr. Collamore,

I am writing to you to explain in a short but powerful email how important it is for myself, and all other providers with out a degree, to NOT pass the s.119 bill.

Let me first start off with a short introduction. My name is Barbie Blanchard and I am a registered in home daycare provider. I had nothing more then a HS diploma until 2016 when i was told I needed either an associate in early ed or a CDA. So in 6 months I got the CDA. I do not feel that the 6 months of studying, testing and a lot of videos educated me in any way more then I already was. I opened my daycare in Oct 2002 , (at a young age of 24) with no children of my own but a passion to help nurture and raise other children. I have been registered for 22 years now and have 2 children of my own, they are 20 and 18. I have moved my daycare 3 times and got registered in each home. I am well known and loved not only in my community but with all families I have worked with in 22 years. I am also well known and referred by professionals in the field all the time. My families I have worked with for 22 years, a lot of them I now call my family. I keep in touch with many and have grown to love and continue to nurture a lot of them. They still as adults reach out to me for guidance.

I can assure you, in my 22 years of running a successful business not one, and I am truthful by saying not one family has asked me if I have my associates in early ed. What they are more concerned with is my love for all the children I care for, my honesty and hard working nature.

I can assure you that If I am required to go back to school in my 50's, that I will no longer run my daycare. Myself and many others will be forced to close. The state has already pushed hundreds of daycares to close because of other "silly" laws.

We work 45-55 hrs a week, we are required to do a minimum of trainings each year, do work after hours, keep our home up to par for your standards and raise our own families. We do this with more love and understanding then you will ever realize.

So I am asking you as a long time Vermonter and business owner to please thank twice before passing this Bill. OR at least think about grandfathering the ones with more then 10/15 years experience. This Bill if passed , will harm Vermont more then you know.

Thank you for your time, and hopefully understanding.

Barbie Blanchard