

Good Morning, I am writing to you concerning the bill to require registered Home Providers to have a degree to stay open. I am a 4 star provider in Braintree and have been in childcare for 30 years. I have a wait list a mile long and a list of providers to try and send them to when I can't take them. I am not far from getting my degree but at this point in my life am not going to add the extra stress to my life. I think if you pass this you will lose a lot of wonderful providers and add to the childcare crisis. We already are required to take 15 hours annually just to operate. If we want to be a specialized care provider we must take 6 more hours. If we want to participate in the food program you are adding on another 2 hours. We take trainings in mandated report, maintain our CPR first aid and are educated in lead paint if our home was built before 1970. We jump through hoops as it is while providing quality care to these kids. I myself have children from 6 am to 6 pm. I understand the need for educated providers I just don't think a mandatory degree is the way to go. A college class in math is not going to make me a better provider just to meet the need. I hope that if this is passed that providers such as myself who have dedicated our life to this profession are grandfathered in. I would hate to change my profession in my 50s and the generations of families I have cared for would be heartbroken. Many of the children I care for are the children of the children I started my business with 30 years ago. Please take the time to reconsider this and the impacts it will have on the industry.

Sincerely

*Karen A Illsley*