

Dear Senator Collamore,

I'm writing today to speak about Bill S.119 which I am not in favor of.

I feel that it is important to be educated on the training and requirements that Registered Family Child Care providers do have and are currently required to adhere to. There is a book called "Child Care Licensing Regulations" from DCF that is 108 pages that we must stay compliant with. Each and every regulation we must maintain regulatory compliance or we will receive a public violation that states our name. This may be given during any unannounced state visit that happens at least annually. Background clearances as well as Medication Administration, Vermont Orientation, Emergency Management, Mandated Reporter, VOSHA and Infant First Aid/CPR/AED trainings are further requirements. We also are mandated to do a minimum of 15 hours of continued education training a year. Of those hours 6 must be Advanced Specialized Care hours. You cannot simply open your doors to families; you first must have a high school diploma. Additionally, either possess sufficient college credits in content aligned with the core knowledge areas outlined by the NLCDC to meet their standards, or complete a specific course that enables you to earn a Level 1 Certificate on the Vermont Early Childhood Career Ladder. I myself hold a Bachelor's Degree from the catholic, accredited college Siena College in Marketing and Management and graduated on the Dean's list. Some of my classes being in Child Development and General Psychology. While also holding a Level 3B Certificate on the Early Childhood Career Ladder. This certificate states that I have an associates degree in any field with at least 21 related college credits in at least 3 Core Knowledge Areas and is equivalent to an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. I am just

finishing the last payments on my college loans and am very proud to be doing so. I am also extremely grateful that my college education allowed me in 2017 to open a very successful daycare. I have three beautiful daughters that attend Christ the King School and am expecting my fourth. Our lives are full of time spent together and activities ranging from national cheer competitions to horseback riding. I anticipate only becoming busier as time continues. I am neither interested in nor able to return to college to pursue another degree at this time or "over several years" as it would only contribute to my burnout and negatively affect the quality of care I can provide to the children I solely welcome into my home each day. I believe I am already more than qualified to continue this profession and would like that to be acknowledged. I plan to retire as a daycare provider, absolutely loving what I do. I hope you are considering alternatives to requiring an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education to recognize me and my peers as professionals. A required certificate from the Early Childhood Career Ladder might be a more appropriate and practical option.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lyndsay (Donahue) Bassalin