



10134 44<sup>th</sup> Court NE St. Michael, MN 55376

March 14, 2017

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Health and Human Services Finance Committee,

My name is Hollee Saville and I have been a successful licensed family childcare provider in St. Michael for 12 years. I am a trainer, consultant, and mentor for early childhood professionals and have a Master's in Early Childhood Education. I have accomplished all of this without a union. I implore you to support HF 604 and repeal the illegal and unconstitutional Family Child Care Representation Act that passed in 2013.

As you know, despite a very flawed process that was stacked in favor of AFSCME (the vote disenfranchised licensed family child care providers by excluding more than 2/3 of us), family child care providers overwhelmingly voted against unionizing: 1,014 to 392.

Family child care providers, families, and Minnesotans have had enough of the threat of forced unionization to family child care. It has been a 12-year fight to defend our independent small businesses. It has cost many providers hundreds of dollars (\$20,000+ for a few of us) and thousands of hours of time in order to educate providers, legislators, and the public about this issue. It has caused us stress and frustration as union organizers have interrupted our care of children and taken away so much time from our own families.

We are independent, self-employed, small business owners and each of us run our programs independently from others. We are certainly NOT employees of the state of Minnesota. We set our own wages, hours, working conditions, etc. and provide all of our own supplies. This law sets a dangerous precedent: what makes us any different than a grocery store that takes food stamps, an independent construction worker who takes a government bid, or chiropractors, doctors, or dentists who accept government health care?

As a long-time advocate for licensed family child care providers and the children and families we serve, I can tell you that I have attended far more meetings and hearings about family child care and done more for our profession than the entire CCPT/AFSCME board...without any cost to providers. I have testified for and against numerous bills that affect our profession when AFSCME has not. I have attended many meetings with DHS when AFSCME has not. Moreover, we already have state, city, and county child care associations that work solely for licensed family childcare providers and the families they serve. Membership is voluntary and as little as \$25/year. Benefits include free monthly trainings, low-cost conferences, referral services, resources, social events, and networking opportunities. There is absolutely nothing that a union can do for us that we cannot do ourselves or with our existing organizations.

Every day, we make positive differences in the lives of Minnesota's families, all without a union. Please do the right thing and repeal the Family Child Care Representation Act...vote YES on HF 604.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Hollie Saville'.

Hollie Saville  
Licensed Family Child Care Provider