

## Testimony regarding HB 6439

Submitted By:  
Shelta Wilson

Good afternoon Sen. Oster, Rep. Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Shelta Wilson and I live in New Haven.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today on the Governor's proposed budget. Specifically I would like to testify about a small part of the DCF budget. I've been at Day Care Provider for 20 years. For the last 10 years I have been taking DCF payment from working parents of mine. During these last 10 years I've been accepting DCF payments and for the last 10 years it has been horrible waiting on payment from DCF. I have gotten so many shut off notices from the light company, the gas company as well as late payment notices with interest add on to them from being late constantly. This continues to happen month after month as a serious result of this my lights did get cut off while I was running my daycare. Three days later my car was repossessed. I was so distraught through this whole situation I did not know what to do.

This has gotten so bad it started to affect me so badly where I was just ready to close my daycare down because it was too much for me to bear anymore. I open my doors every day. I only close on holiday. I work so hard to provide good childcare service for all my parents and their children just to get treated like this. I have emailed DCF numerous times begging them - not asking - but begging them to please process my payments. I'm getting shut off notices from everywhere and I can't continue to run my business like this with no money. They would send me one payment and still be

behind in 6 to 7 months of payment for me. I have never felt so degraded. Even the parents who I was taking the payments for were very upset as well. Dcf has to be held accountable for what they are doing to hard working providers. We have had enough of their non-caring ways and it has to end here today.

I would like the committee to move the DCF child care money to the OEC who has a much better track record of paying providers on time. Thank you for considering this issue.