



# Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce

At Beaulieu Place

"Where Business and Technology Meet"

PO Box 336 • 33 Stewart Rd. • Barre, VT 05641

*Responsibly improving the climate for doing business in the Central Vermont Community.*

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August 1, 2016

Ms. Charlotte Ancel  
Chair

Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality Affordable Child Care  
18 Iranistan Road  
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Ms. Ancel:

I am writing to express to you the concerns that the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce has regarding the accessibility, affordability and availability of child care in Vermont.

The Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce is concerned that the recent adoption of new regulations on Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) and Family Child Care Professionals (FCCP) will have a significantly negative impact on businesses across the state.

First and foremost, we believe that the estimated cost of compliance with these regulations may force many FCCHs and FCCPs either to close or to operate in the "underground economy," in an illegal and unregulated manner.

We are also concerned that as these regulations force the closure of properly licensed facilities, employees will have a difficult time finding appropriate child care and there will be a direct, negative impact on employee morale and job performance. There will be increased absenteeism and productivity issues which will also directly affect employers across the state.

The Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce fully believes that affordable, accessible, available, and licensed child care is vital for working families and their employers. We do not believe that the new regulations will further that objective.