



RHODE ISLAND CENTER FOR

# FREEDOM & PROSPERITY

*Freedom Is Indispensable To Our Well-being And Prosperity*

Ms. Robyn H. Golden  
Administrator  
RI State Labor Relations Board  
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building #73, 2nd Floor  
Cranston, RI 02920

September 10, 2013

*Re. SEIU 1199 Petition - Child Care Providers*

Dear Ms. Golden:

Our Rhode Island Center for Freedom and Prosperity would like to officially petition the RI State Labor Relations Board to revise the language on the proposed ballot in the upcoming election regarding the SEIU 1199 Petition - Child Care Providers.

It is the opinion of our Center that the proposed language does not make an important provision clear to child care providers; that by voting to accept representation, that such representation would be **exclusive** to SEIU.

Per a recent report in the Providence Journal, we understand that the ballot question currently reads:  
*'Do you desire to be represented for the purpose of collective bargaining by Service Employees International Union, District 1199, NE or by no provider representative.'*

The Center therefore recommends that the ballot language should be revised to read:

*'Do you desire to be represented for the purpose of collective bargaining exclusively by Service Employees International Union, District 1199, NE or by no provider representative.'*

We have heard that similar language has been included in other ballots in other states.

In order to be fully transparent with child care providers who are considering the important question of representation, it is the firm belief of our Center that they should be made aware of the full consequences of their vote. The RI SLRB would be doing child care providers a great service by clarifying the question of exclusive representation as this group of professionals considers their vote.

Our Center is nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank engaged in various public policy issues throughout the state of Rhode Island. A more transparent governmental process is one of our objectives. We are grateful for your Board's consideration of this petition. I can be reached at 401.429-6115 or [mstenhouse@rifreedom.org](mailto:mstenhouse@rifreedom.org).

Sincerely,

Mike Stenhouse, CEO