

## **Providers win more affordable license fees**

In 2007, Minnesota family child care providers came together in SEIU Kids First to pass the bill drafted by the Scott County Licensed Family Child Care Association and our union. Together with our allies, we testified at the Capitol and called lawmakers to get their support. **Working together, we succeeded: our bill to cap the licensing fee at \$50 is now a law!**



"Understand how important we are—we are the reason our communities work. Our bill will help us provide better services for the children and parents who depend on us." — *Tanya Shorter of St. Cloud, who testified at the Capitol*

SEIU Kids First members, other childcare providers, and their supporter testified at committee hearings, talked to our legislators, written letters and signed postcards urging Minnesota lawmakers to support providers and our kids.

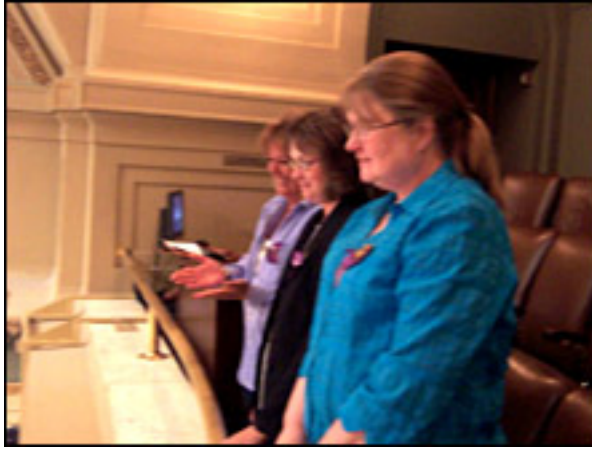
The governor vetoed one version of our bill, which would have also capped background check fees. But over 200 providers called the governor after his veto, and with the support of our legislators, we stood together and won.

The successful campaign to cap licensing fees included a series of public events on, National Provider Appreciation Day, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Providers across the state showed our communities the important work we do, and asked our legislators to stand with us for more affordable licensing fees. Across the state, providers put up signs on our homes, to let our parents and communities know about the day.



Providers delivered purple “Support

Family Child Care” ribbons to senators and representatives, along with cards urging them to invest more in quality child care.



When Rep. Patti Fritz recognized National Provider Appreciation Day, the entire House stood and applauded us!



In St. Cloud, Mayor Kleis met with family child care providers Jan Stockinger, Jodi Schneider, Pam Koepp and Sandy Trossen.



In St. Joe, Mayor Carlbom met with providers Karen Budde, Stearns County Provider of the Year, Bonnie Budde and Cindy Hammerel, Benton County Provider of the Year.



In Sartell, Mayor O'Driscoll met with providers Cherilee Brockopp, Vicki Langston, Diane Kiley and Rachel Loldmasteymaugh.



In Rochester, Mayor Brede read a story to kids at Anna Telecky's child care and issued a Proclamation for National Provider Appreciation Day.