



Business Alliance for Childhood Education
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Tyler Nottberg, Board Member
Alliance for Childhood Education
Senate Ways and Means Committee

Chairman Masterson and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to express my opposition to the proposed changes for the funding structure of early childhood programs in Kansas. I offer two perspectives on these proposed changes—as a Founder and Chairman of the Alliance for Childhood Education, and as Chairman & CEO of U.S. Engineering Company Holdings.

The Alliance is a statewide, **non-profit, non-partisan coalition of business leaders committed to improving Kansas's education system. We are the only business organization in the region focused exclusively on education policy.** The Alliance promotes high-quality education for all Kansas children, from cradle to career. Our primary focus is on high-quality early childhood education because we are convinced that investments in early childhood education stop problems before they start. Investing early means investing our state dollars where they can get the biggest return over time.

As the leader of one of the most experienced, diversified and respected mechanical contractors in the United States, I understand the importance of a creative and skilled workforce, and I am committed to supporting proven, effective strategies for building that pool of talent across the state. Since our founding in Kansas City in 1893, our Vision at U.S. Engineering Company has been to “Be the Best.” In order to achieve that Vision, we must have highly-skilled team members who are good at solving complex problems. I am convinced that workforce development begins with high-quality early education programs—the very programs that have been supported by the CIF and will be placed at risk should that system be dismantled and funds be raided for other purposes. The CIF was founded and funded using principles that are familiar to any business leader: accountability, transparency, return on investment, innovation and a focus on students. High-quality early childhood programs are a proven strategy for growing a skilled workforce and positioning our state for future economic growth. Now is not the time to discard such a robust strategy.

For these reasons, I ask that Committee Members commit to a sound economic development strategy that recognizes the connection between early education programs and the future prosperity of our state. Please oppose the proposed changes to the funding structure of the KEY Fund and the CIF.

Sincerely,
Tyler Nottberg
Chairman & CEO, U.S. Engineering Company Holdings
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Alliance for Childhood Education

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