

Thank you for your proposition of SB 282. I am in full support of this bill.

I own and operate a small center in Carbondale, Kansas. If this bill passes it would be an extreme help to us that are struggling to find employees that we can afford. In order for the parents that I have to be able to afford the care I provide, I must keep my rates low. Therefore, my wages are low. I cannot compete with some of the larger companies in Topeka, Kansas. At this time I have an 18 year old high school student working for me that loves the job and hopes to continue in this field. She is amazing with the children in the classroom. She has not yet graduated from high school and due to the current regulation she cannot be left alone in the classroom if there is a reason that the lead teacher needs to step out. At this time she is a second in the classroom/fill in where needed until she has the high school diploma.

I feel that there needs to be an overhaul of all of the regulations in the Child Care Center book. Things need to be more specific in there instead of left open for interpretation by the local surveyor. I also feel that as a provider and center director/owner that if we ask for clarification on a regulation the state employees should not refer us back to our surveyor. We would not be asking for clarification from them if we did not feel that they were wrong.

There are so many things wrong in this field that we could write a book about it but on the other hand there are so many right things too. I have been in this field for 25 years and I have friends that have been in it for 30+ years. This is our calling.

Keep up the good work and I hope this bill passes.

Carol Flechsig  
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