






CCPC

When we support each other great things can happen

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Re: SB 282

Dear Sen Erickson and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am a family child care provider in Olathe and am also the Vice President for Child Care Providers Coalition of Kansas (CCPC). We are a non-profit founded by family child care providers, working to promote the work and the voice of family child care providers in our state. The organization provides a training conference each year, advocacy for family child care providers, and professional networking opportunities.

We appreciate your effort to open the conversation about the child care crisis in Kansas. It is real and must be addressed. I am here today as an opponent to SB 282 to ask you to stop this bill. However, I invite you to engage in conversation with CCPC and other organizations to learn about the nuances of early childhood in Kansas, the needs in different care environments.

CCPC collaborates regularly with different entities across the state to improve the dynamic of care in Kansas. I have been a member of the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel and the KDHE- Systems Improvement Team. Others on our board have fulfilled different roles within the state too. The work done by stakeholders and advocates has led to trusting relationships that have brought about tangible results, albeit slowly. I know that although I may have differences in opinion with other organizations, I will be listened to and treated with respect. This bill will actively undo the work we have accomplished.

CCPC asks you to be wise with your efforts to assist as we address the child care crisis. By moving regulations into statute, you will remove the ability for advocates and stakeholders to work together nimbly to address barriers within the system and specific localities. Proposed changes in the bill conflict with evidence of best practice for health, safety, and development of young children. Reducing qualifications while increasing ratio capacity pose a threat to safety for the educator and child. Although you wish to help, implementation of this bill will not help different areas equally across the state. This cannot be accepted.

We ask that you respect our experience and knowledge and remove yourself from a role of inappropriately interfering with systems level development. But there are efforts that you can make! Spend time working with CCPC as we advocate for family child care providers. We are eager to educate and inform you of the vital resource family child care offers Kansas.

CCPC values your time and effort. We are grateful for your consideration as we work to strengthen our field and ensure that families in Kansas receive high quality care for children.

Respectfully

Child Care Providers Coalition of Kansas
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