

STATE OF KANSAS

MARY JO TAYLOR
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TOPEKA
SENATE CHAMBER

February 14, 2017

Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare, thank you for the opportunity to ask for consideration of SB 126. The existing bill specifies restrictions for those who maintain, work in, or volunteer at child care facilities. It is a good bill. Certain individuals may not operate or work in a child care facility if they are a felon or a sex offender. The changes offered improve upon the statute by doing two things:

1. Clarifies language on those convicted as felons, and
2. Adds a third item under subsection "D." This item three (lines 3 through 12 on page 2) defines a sex offender for purposes pertinent to child care facilities.

It is essential that these two definitions be codified. When this lack of clarification was brought to my attention, I was eager to bring the bill to committee. In my capacity as an education administrator, I have seen the damage inflicted on many by just one misplacement of a child care volunteer. Of course, the harm done in a large community is exponential, as Diana Schunn of Sedgwick County explains.

I encourage you to pass this bill out of committee so we may move forward in our efforts to keep our children safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo Taylor".

Mary Jo Taylor, Senator
District 33