



**Proponent Testimony on HB2414– Written Only
House Committee on Taxation
March 23, 2021**

Chair Smith and Members of the Committee, my name is Rachel Marsh, CEO of the Children’s Alliance of Kansas. The Alliance is an association of 18 private, non-profit child welfare agencies that collectively provide a full array of services for children and families in child abuse and neglect prevention, family preservation, foster care, adoption, independent living, and parent, youth, and child skill-building, mental health, and substance use treatment.

The Children’s Alliance supports HB2414, which expands the Kansas child day care assistance credit. The Alliance recognizes the negative impact on families when they are unable to secure quality child care. We also acknowledge the extreme difference child care subsidies that pay for, or offset, affordable and full-time child care can make on working families. Yet finding a licensed child care provider has become a frustrating reality for many Kansas parents. According to 2018 data from Child Care Aware, a child care referral service, only three of Kansas’ 105 counties met or exceeded the need for child care. More than a third fulfill only half the demand or less. Increased access to reliable child care has long been associated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect in that it decreases the economic impact associated with child care, provides appropriate supervision for children and reduces disruption in the accessibility of care. State that have successfully addressed the need for child care and have higher child care subsidies report decreased rates of child abuse and neglect and increased workforce participation rates, particularly with low-income mothers. Kansas must make quality, affordable child care a priority and incentivize those businesses who can help make it happen.

We ask you to support this bill expanding the net amount of refundable tax credits for employers who pay for or provide child care for their employees, and expand eligible taxpayers to include S corporations. Thank you for your leadership and attention to the important issue of high quality, affordable child care in Kansas. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance as you consider HB2414.

Members of the Children’s Alliance of Kansas:

CALM, Emporia
Cornerstones of Care, Overland Park
DCCCA, Lawrence
Eckerd, Wichita
EmberHope, Wichita
Florence Crittenton, Topeka
FosterAdopt Connect, Olathe
Great Circle, Lawrence
Kansas Children’s Service League, Topeka
KVC Kansas, Olathe
KidsTLC, Olathe

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Mayetta
Restoration Family Services, Wichita
Saint Francis Ministries, Salina
TFI Family Services, Topeka
The Children’s Shelter, Lawrence
The Villages, Topeka
Wichita Children’s Home, Wichita