



March 20, 2021

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2414. My name is Kelly Davydov and I serve as the executive director of Child Care Aware of Kansas, a network of child care resource and referral agencies working to ensure that all young children and their families have access to high quality early care and education.

The measures outlined in HB 2414 would positively impact young children, their families, and the communities they work and live in by incentivizing the creation of high-quality child care. The availability of child care – and parents' ability to choose quality environments that meet their needs and the needs of their young children – has steadily declined in Kansas over the past several years. From 2019 to 2020 alone, Kansas lost over 1,000 child care slots. While the pandemic has intensified Kansas' child care crisis, it is not the underlying cause of the crisis, and pandemic relief measures will largely focus on preserving what remains of our existing child care infrastructure.

This bill represents bold action to lay the groundwork for private public partnerships in the creation of new child care infrastructure. Child care is essential to a thriving Kansas economy, and requires the active participation of businesses (including child care providers) and community partners. By providing a tax credit to businesses that support the creation of child care programs in Kansas, this bill represents a win-win for both private partners and the young children and families that benefit from increased access to early and education options.

Child Care Aware of Kansas continuously hears from families, child care providers, and communities across the state about the need for high-quality early care and education. We ask that you support HB 2414 and other effort to make high-quality child care available to all Kansans. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I would be glad to answer any questions you have on the topic now or in the future.

Sincerely,

Kelly Davydov

Child Care Aware of Kansas

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