



February 24, 2021

Chairman Smith and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share written support the employer child care tax credit bill. My name is Candi Westbrook and I am the Executive Director of the Coffeyville Area Chamber of Commerce. We seek to strengthen our community by supporting our business and industries in Coffeyville.

Childcare has become not only a challenge but even a crisis in our region. It not only impacts parents and our citizens, but it has become detrimental to our businesses and workforce who are struggling to find a skilled workforce that is not negatively impacted by the limited childcare support in our community.

We can give countless examples of business and industries who could not fill key positions because of the childcare crisis. Often, they have to recruit employees from other regions and even across state borders. Instead of living in Kansas, employees will commute from Oklahoma, impacting our sales tax, quality of life and so much more. As a Chamber of Commerce, we feel it is important we give our businesses every opportunity to be successful and even expand operations in Kansas. This cannot happen with the childcare challenge impacting their eligible workforce.

We ask that you support the upcoming childcare tax credit bill and other efforts 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,

Candi Westbrook

Candi Westbrook
Coffeyville Area Chamber of Commerce

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