



**The Family Resource Center**

Written Opponent Testimony SB 282  
Senate Bill 282  
Senate Commerce Committee  
Ann Elliott, Executive Director Family Resource Center Pittsburg  
Jenny Ehling, Director of Early Childhood Services USD 250 Pittsburg

We want to share with the Senate Commerce Committee some information regarding SB 282 and why we think this bill would harm child care in Kansas. We have worked in licensed child care for over 23 years, administering a center-based child care license for 386 children. In addition to actually operating a child care center for over 300 kids for 58 hours per week (even during every day of the pandemic), we work with smaller child care providers in six counties to maintain and improve access.

This bill does not help the child care industry in Kansas. It could be harmful to kids and the staff we work so desperately to recruit and retain. The increase in staff-to-child ratios is not feasible, nor is it best practice. Our center would not increase ratios; it's just not a good idea. As the only nationally accredited child care provider in our region, we just don't think it's the best practice.

Additionally, we work with rural child care providers; by having the legislature be responsible for the rules, you take away the flexibility we need to have exemptions that can be put into place by the health department when necessary. Having the Kansas Legislature change the rules during each session would make a complicated and unstable work environment for those of us actually doing the work.

If the Kansas Legislature wants to support access to child care, please consider making it easier for families to receive child care assistance through DCF, increase funding to support wages for child care providers, and promote state regulations that ensure those of us in the field have access to the federal funds that could be drawn down.

We would be willing to share our experiences with anyone on the committee, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at 620-235-3150.

Thank you for your time,

Ann Elliott  
Executive Director  
Family Resource Center

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