



Tim & Linda Johnson

14135 Mitchell Court (Apt. A)
Basehor, Ks. 66007
913 728-2024

February 25, 2023

Senate Tax Committee
State of Kansas

RE: Senate Bill 164
Support Passage of Bill
Oral Testimony-Timothy H. Johnson

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of my wife Linda and myself as dedicated supporters of the Trinity Family Learning Center Daycare in Leavenworth County, we speak on behalf of the proposed daycare grants as outlined in SB 164. I speak on behalf of the church as an elder and Linda as a long term employee of the church operated childcare that serves upwards of 125 children at peak times.

Daycare is at the heart of every community, providing needed services so that families can engage in business occupations in support of the family budget. Whether a rural or urban community, without quality and affordable daycare options families and the economy suffer. Covid was the greatest threat to our operations at Trinity and we were able to stay open because the church provided financial assistance to keep the doors open and employees paid.

The grants that our staff and other daycares in our region received last year meant these dedicated people were able to “weather the storm.” With staff shortages and employees facing leaving to take better paying jobs, the bonuses came through and made an incredible difference. One long term employee who had already given her two week notice decided to stay with the kids she loved when the notice of the bonus came through. Her new job would have been in the fast food industry which pays more than daycare, but the bonus turned the tide.

I personally assisted daycare operators and workers to complete the computer application grants last year. It was most rewarding as each and every time I heard stories of how the extra pay saved the day, especially for single moms and parents with large families. We can make a difference again in 2023 with your support of Senate Bill 164. Thank you for your considerations.

Sincerely

Tim & Linda Johnson