



March 1, 2023

Testimony of Callie Hoffman, Executive Director
Kansas Parents as Teachers Association
Senate Committee on Assessment & Taxation

Chairperson Tyson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony with you all today. Parents as Teachers programs build strong communities, thriving families, children that are healthy, safe, and ready to learn by matching parents and caregivers with trained professionals during a child's earliest years in life, the time from pregnancy through kindergarten. Parents as Teachers internationally recognized, evidence-based home visiting model is backed by 35 years of research with proven outcomes for children and families. Parents as Teachers currently serves 121,000 families in 50 U.S. states, 115 Tribal organizations, five other countries and one U.S. territory with this model.

Parents as Teacher's offers a wide range of services that affords families a variety of opportunities to ensure their young children are set up for a lifetime of success. During our personal visits, parent educators share development information relevant to the child, address parenting concerns, and engages the family in parent-child activities. We also host group connections as a way to share information about parenting issues and child development. Annually we offer screenings for development, health, vision and hearing that allow for early identification of developmental delays that could interfere with learning. The facilitation of a resource and referral network is managed by parent educators to help families overcome barriers by identifying and accessing a community's resources, including child care.

The access to quality child care opportunities in our Kansas communities continues to be a struggle for families that must now be considered a crisis. High-quality child care keeps children safe and healthy. In addition, it helps children develop skills they will need for success in school and in their lives outside of school: Social, emotional and communication skills. Pre-literacy and basic mathematical skills and concepts. There are 100,000 fewer child-care workers than there were before the coronavirus pandemic, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Even as private-sector employment fully rebounded over the summer from the job losses caused by Covid-19, the child care sector shrank and was 9.7 percent smaller last month than it was in February 2020, federal data shows. The typical American child-care worker earns about \$13 per hour, and many earn just above minimum wage. According to a survey conducted by researchers at the University of Oregon last year, 29 percent of families were so poor that they experienced food insecurity. The mathematics of how to solve this discrepancy for childcare are not easy to solve either, in part because programs run on such tight margins. Child care providers cannot simply raise tuition in order to pay themselves or the workers more; child care is already a leading household expense and a service that is unaffordable for 60 percent of the families who need it, according to the Treasury Department.

SB 164 would create a \$2,000 income tax credit for child care workers. It is essential this tax credit includes those in the child care roles of directors and owners. This tax credit would support the current child care workforce sustainability in Kansas until 2025. I ask that you consider support for SB164 as part of the solution to resolve the child care crisis in Kansas.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Callie Hoffman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Callie Hoffman, Executive Director
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