



February 27, 2023

Written statement in support of Senate Bill 164  
Wednesday, March 1, 2023  
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation  
Position on Bill: Proponent

The Coffeyville Area Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses in the SEK region, supports the passage of Senate Bill 164, which would provide a \$2000 tax credit for qualified employees of licensed child care facilities.

The childcare dilemma has hit our state and the SEK region. Childcare facilities struggle to fully staff centers with qualified employees, directly impacting the number of children they can serve. In 2022, there 1561 children under age 6 with parents in the workforce but only 934 spots available in the county. This costs individual parents several thousand a year in lost wages as they try to return to the workforce post pandemic. The Coffeyville Chamber is currently serving on a local childcare coalition, exploring solutions to the lack of available childcare. This became a priority as our businesses have struggled to find qualified workers as well as lost income and sales tax dollar revenues from the childcare dilemma.

Data from our region indicates the providers are undercompensated with an average income of \$23,440 in Kansas. And they are overworked, with 87% of providers working over 50 hours a week.

If enacted into state law, the Chamber believes Senate Bill 164 will provide a tangible benefit to helping ease what has become an enormous hardship for many Kansas parents and businesses.

Sincerely,

Candi Westbrook  
President/CEO

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