

STATE OF KANSAS
SENATE

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CHASE BLASI
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Dear Chairwoman Renee Erickson and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce:

I respectfully ask for your support for SB282: relating to licensure of child care facilities; day care homes and child care centers.

Finding safe affordable childcare has become a major challenge facing Kansas families, children, our businesses, and workforce. Unfortunately, over the past decade, Kansas regulators have placed some of the strictest regulations on providers in the nation. Putting hundreds of providers out of business therefore eliminating thousands of spots for children.

SB282 reduces red-tape by providing the following changes:

- 1) Relaxes ratio requirements to put Kansas back into the national average. Only Maryland joins Kansas on a 3:1 infant ratio.
- 2) Adjusts staff training and education requirements to allow a greater pool of candidates. Current regulations prevent highly qualified candidates from working in childcare.
- 3) Local governments partner with Kansas to ensure safe facilities. This pre-empts locals from placing stricter regulations on our providers.
- 4) Places childcare workers in our occupational licensure reciprocity statutes to assist military and other families locating to Kansas.
- 5) Reduces fees for childcare providers.
- 6) Allows for flexibility. The bill empowers the Secretary of the Department of Health and Environment to issue waivers to meet the needs of specific providers and their situation.
- 7) Removes some arbitrary regulations such as requiring every child in childcare brush their teeth after a snack or meal.

I want to stress that nothing in this bill prohibits providers from placing self-imposed limits on themselves. No provider has to increase the number of spots and can require greater education and experience requirements. This bill empowers providers to create a safe place to nourish and educate the next generation of Kansans.