

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber



Senate Minority Whip

PAT PETTEY

STATE SENATOR, 6TH DISTRICT
5316 LAKEWOOD ST.
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66106
(913) 579-3741

ROOM 125-E, STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7375
pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

RANKING MINORITY: PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE
MEMBER: CONFIRMATION OVERSIGHT
EDUCATION
WAYS AND MEANS

JOINT COMMITTEE: PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS
AND BENEFITS
ROBERT G. BETHEL ON
KANCARE OVERSIGHT

SB 263

Chair Tyson, Vice Chair Alley, Ranking Minority Holland, and committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 263. I am here representing the Legislature Early Learning Caucus. This caucus advocates for increasing access and high-quality learning opportunities for all children ages 0-5 across the state of Kansas.

The Blueprint for Early Childhood developed by the Kansas Children's Cabinet and published in January 2020 is our state's strategic framework for ensuring that every child thrives. It promotes working towards high quality, accessible, and affordable programs and services.

Across Kansas, rural communities large and small, are recognizing that without high-quality childcare, it is difficult to recruit the workforce needed to help them prosper.

This legislation supports and fosters family success through equitable and affordable childcare. This is good for Kansas and for business. Tax credits can help businesses support their employees' access to childcare.

Childcare is such a critical need, it is considered to be on par with broadband internet access, affordable housing, and affordable health care.

Communities like Phillipsburg and Lindsborg are working to nurture prosperity for their communities by focusing on childcare.

This 50% tax credit will help employers of all sizes all over the state of Kansas provide facilities and equipment for high quality childcare services either on site or off for their employees. Brain development research has helped us learn that 90% of brain development occurs before the age of 5. I know we all want the best for all our young children in Kansas.

The Early Learning Caucus ask that you support SB 263 and important tool to make high-quality childcare available to all Kansans.

Thank you and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Sen. Pat Pettey

Senate Assessment and Taxation
Date _____

Attachment # _____