

## Joshua B. Zenger

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Honorable Adam Smith, Chairman  
House Committee on Taxation  
Statehouse, Room 185A-N  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: HB 2414

Dear Sir:

It is with respect that I submit my support in favor of HB 2414 increasing tax credits for employers providing childcare or childcare supplements to their employees. There is a shortage of quality childcare options for Kansas families, we should do everything we can to help. I view this bill as an opportunity to further engage Kansas employers as part of the solution.

First and foremost, I am a father of three in a household where both my wife and I work outside the home (in a pre-COVID situation). Finding quality care for our children is one of the most important decisions we make. It is expensive, stressful and scarce. It is hard to find both in the metro area we live in now, and the rural Kansas communities we each grew up in.

Second, I co-chair the Board of a nonprofit faith-based childcare center. We serve over 150 children in Leavenworth County. We have maintained a wait list for the entirety of the 11 years I have served the Board. The waitlist, the shortage, results in negative outcomes:

- Kids are in the care of a provider versus their own parents for longer periods of time. Our doors are open 6:00 through 6:00 serving families who drive out of their way to secure both affordable and quality care in our center.
- In many cases, the shortage contributes to less affordable care options when price competition doesn't exist. Our center is nonprofit, so the connection may not be obvious. Competition is good – it forces everyone in the game to get better. Better care at affordable prices.
- Whereas this bill may not directly benefit my care center, for profit care providers commonly subsidize care for their own employees, and therefore would be eligible to receive additional benefit.

Employer provided childcare creates more options for Kansas families and tax credits are an excellent way to encourage their growth. I thank you and the members of this committee for considering this employer tax credit that will assist Kansas businesses to be more competitive, provide better employee benefits, and help Kansas families in their search for quality childcare.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Joshua B. Zenger