

300 SW 8th Avenue, Ste. 100 Topeka, KS 66603-3951 P: (785) 354-9565

F: (785) 354-4186 www.lkm.org

To: House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee

From: Spencer Duncan, Government Affairs Director

Date: February 19, 2024

RE: HB 2664 – Establishing a Grant Program for Home Based Child Care

In Support – Written Testimony

Thank you, Chairman Tarwater and members of the Commerce Committee, for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2664.

The program outlined in HB 2664 is one more important piece to providing opportunities for the development of daycare providers in Kansas. Any opportunity you can open in this crucial area is essential for the future of Kansas.

Childcare is an increasing ask of citizens from cities, whether that be in providing direct assistance or helping with general development of programs. There are not enough childcare opportunities in our communities to meet current demand. This impacts cities' abilities to retain and attract a workforce. More importantly, lack of these services creates safety risks for children and impacts the development of our youth.

Cities are getting more involved in working with local businesses, child care providers and citizens to find ways to develop childcare opportunities. Cities will continue to do so, but any assistance in this effort by the state is essential to the cause.

The League of Kansas Municipalities and its members support passage of HB 2664 and appreciate all the help you provide to Kansas children.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if we can provide any additional information that might prove helpful.

Spencer Duncan

Government Affairs Director League of Kansas Municipalities 785-383-8825 sduncan@lkm.org