



The Derby Chamber of Commerce supports the passage of Senate Bill 164, which would provide a \$2000 tax credit for qualified employees of licensed childcare facilities.

In South Central Kansas, childcare facilities need help to staff their centers with qualified employees. Professional staffing shortages impact the number of children they can serve. A low supply of childcare workers and a chronic lack of affordable childcare options for families define childcare challenges.

Lack of childcare has created a burden for those serving in the Military. McConnell Air Force Base is located two miles from Derby and is in the Derby Public School District. Leadership at McConnell Air Force Base has stated that the lack of childcare facilities and options is a problem. Furthermore, top leadership at Air Mobility Command Headquarters has indicated that lack of childcare is a nationwide problem.

In the Derby area, working parents find it more and more challenging to find available childcare. With only anecdotal evidence, it is easy to see that a lack of childcare is contributing to the lack of workforce in the area.

If passed, Senate Bill 164 will be a big step in easing that burden for parents and even employers who are finding it more and more challenging to hire qualified employees. If enacted into state law, Senate Bill 164 will provide a tangible benefit to helping ease what has become an enormous hardship for many Kansas parents and businesses.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Staats'.

Mark A. Staats
President & CEO