



**Date:** March 8, 2023

**To:** Senate Committee on Commerce  
Senator Renee Erickson, Chair

**From:** Kelly VanZwoll, Assistant Vice President – Government Relations  
Kansas Bankers Association

**Re:** Written Proponent Testimony – SB 282

Madam Chair and committee members, I am Kelly VanZwoll providing proponent testimony on behalf of the Kansas Bankers Association (KBA). The KBA was organized in 1887, and our membership includes 98% of the 208 banks and savings & loans headquartered in Kansas. Our membership also includes 20 out-of-state commercial banks operating in Kansas. The Kansas banking industry employs more than 22,000 Kansans that provide financial services in every county across the state. Our organizational mission statement is:

*"Together, we support our member banks and bankers with leadership, advocacy, and education to benefit the communities and customers they serve."*

One of the stated goals of the KBA 3-year Strategic Plan is to enhance workforce development strategies across the state. In putting together that strategic plan, the leaders of the KBA recognized that Kansas Banks, just like any other business, are struggling to maintain the workforce needed. A shortage of workers is an undeniable barrier to economic growth and development for any community, whether rural or urban. High childcare costs and limited options drive workers, specifically women, out of the workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony today in support of SB 282, which will make several changes to the state's childcare standards to increase their capacity, increase employee pay, and reduce costs for families. We view this bill as another tool in the toolbox to help Kansans rejoin the workforce, businesses succeed, and communities grow. As stated above, our mission at the KBA is to support the banking industry to benefit the communities and customers they serve. We support SB 282 as means of accomplishing that mission.

Again, Madam Chair, thank you for your time, and if you or the committee have questions or require additional information, don't hesitate to contact me at [kvanzwoll@ksbankers.com](mailto:kvanzwoll@ksbankers.com) or (785) 232-3444.