



Written Neutral Testimony on SB 282
Presented to the Senate Commerce Committee
by Tim McKee, CEO
Olathe Chamber of Commerce
March 9, 2023

Chairman Erickson and Honorable Committee Members,

The Olathe Chamber of Commerce is the largest chamber in Johnson County and the second largest chamber in the Kansas City area. Comprised of 1,300 members and growing, it was the first chamber in the state to receive 5-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce – a designation obtained by less than 1 percent of the nation’s chambers. Its mission is to be the voice of business that advances the economic well-being and quality of life in Olathe.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written neutral testimony on SB 282, which proposes changes aimed at increasing childcare capacity, revenue for facilities to increase pay for caregivers and reduce costs to families who are struggling with the high cost of childcare. The members of the Olathe Chamber of Commerce recognizes lack of affordable childcare is a barrier for many parents wanting to participate in the workforce and as such added the issue to our 2023 legislative agenda.

The Chamber thanks the advocates who brought SB 282 to the legislature seeking to find real solutions to the childcare crisis that impact the lives of many Kansas workers. While we have had discussions with our members surrounding the issues of childcare, we have not had clear direction on specific solutions and understand there are concerns with some of the proposals outlined in SB 282. We also recognize that as a Chamber we are not in the business of childcare and do not know the intricacies of the business. As such, the Olathe Chamber of Commerce respectfully submits neutral testimony on SB 282 and encourages the Legislature to work with parents, businesses and childcare advocates to find solutions that address both the childcare capacity and low worker wages while maintaining practical safety standards for Kansas children.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim McKee, CEO, Olathe Chamber of Commerce