

Annell Harmon  
644 North Ridgewood Drive  
Wichita, KS 67208

March 5, 2023

The Honorable Renee Erickson and Committee on Commerce  
700 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66603

Dear Senator Erickson and Committee,

My name is Annell Harmon of Harmon & Harmon Family Child Care. My husband, Robert and I have been the owners and operators of our Wichita home-based child care for 34 years. I am writing today to oppose SB282.

My years of experience has given me a good feel for the ups and downs of child care. I realize there is a child care crisis in Kansas. Actions do need to take place to correct the problems. However, SB282 is not the answer; this bill contains unsafe actions such as changes to the staff-to-child ratio.

I have a good understanding of the needs of the families I serve. I have had the privilege of developing close and personal relationships with our child care families. They have shared with me their concerns. The number one statement they make is “When I go to work I want to know that my child is in a safe environment. Then I am at peace at work and can do my job!”

One of the solutions to the childcare crisis comes from the hard work the Child Care Systems Improvement Team (CC-SIT) is accomplishing. CC-SIT serves in an advisory capacity to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. I have had the honor of becoming one of its many members. This team consists of experts in early childhood education and childcare, from executive directors to family child care providers. Any changes or needed updates belong as regulations, not statues. CC-SIT is working hard to find safe and healthy solutions to assure all Kansas families have access to high quality affordable child care.

Annell Harmon  
Harmon & Harmon Family Child Care