

Good morning, my name is Sarah Hague - I'm the Chief Program Officer at Vote Mama Foundation and I am here to speak on behalf of the organization in strong support of Senate Bill 63.

Childcare obligations are one of the major factors families consider when weighing their decision to run for office. In many states, it costs more to send an infant to childcare than a mortgage payment. This is not an expense working families can take on - especially when campaigning.

In 2018, the Federal Election Commission approved federal candidates' option to spend campaign funds on childcare through a unanimous, bipartisan vote.

However, this ruling does not apply to state and local candidates. Vote Mama Foundation is the only organization working to approve the use of Campaign Funds for Dependent Care by state and local candidates in all 50 states.

As of today, 28 states, both Democratic and Republican, have brought their state statutes in line with federal regulations. States like Arkansas, Kentucky, Montana, and West Virginia all allow for candidates to use their campaign dollars on caregiver expenses.

**This legislation is a bipartisan initiative for moms and dads alike. As with any other campaign finance allowance, this bill creates an option for use and is not a mandate - candidates don't have to use campaign funds on caregiving expenses if they don't want to.**

Allowing candidates to use campaign funds to pay for dependent care is not only a common sense solution to the barriers that working caregivers face while running for office, it also protects candidates' choice to spend personal campaign dollars on what makes the most sense for them. Every political candidate in the state of Kansas should be able to use the campaign funds that they raise to pay for caregiving services that they need to run for office. This common sense solution is at no cost to taxpayers or state governments.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge the Senate Transparency and Ethics Committee to support SB63 and vote it out of committee. I am happy to answer any questions.