



March 24, 2021

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Kansas Action for Children
Verbal Testimony in Support of HB 2414
House Committee on Taxation

Chairperson Tyson and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2414, which would expand eligibility for the existing employer child care tax credit. KAC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization that pursues policies to help Kansas' kids and the adults who care for them.

As all Kansas families know, and as the pandemic has brought into plain view for everyone else, child care is a necessity for the day-to-day operation of a household. It's no accident that child care providers have been deemed essential workers. The unfortunate reality is that our existing child care system leaves many children without high-quality early learning opportunities, many parents without reliable child care, and many businesses in the lurch when their employees can't find someone to watch the kids. To fix this, Kansas needs buy-in from all parties, parents and providers, businesses, and all levels of government. By providing a tax incentive for businesses to support employees' child care needs, this bill provides an important foundation for Kansas public and private sectors to work together and help Kansas families.

At Kansas Action for Children, we aim to make Kansas the best place to raise – and be – a child. To realize that goal, Kansas needs to make high-quality early learning opportunities affordable and accessible to all families. By expanding eligibility for the existing employer child care tax credit to all Kansas businesses, HB2414 will support employers who want to ensure their employees have access to child care but aren't big enough to afford that benefit on their own. It will help parents who need child care but work for one of those small businesses. Most importantly, it will give more children access to a stable early learning environment during the most critical phase of brain development.

We ask that you support HB 2414 and other efforts to make high-quality child care available to all Kansans. Thank you for your time and consideration and feel free to reach out with further questions to me at mitch@kac.org.