

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, LABOR & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
THURSDAY, MARCH 6
NEUTRAL TESTIMONY HB2785

Chairman Tarwater and Committee Members, thank you for allowing us to provide testimony today. The M.E.T.L. coalition represents over 3,500 businesses and today we wanted to express our neutral position on HB2785.

We have a robust regional agenda that is used during the state legislative session. Childcare has continued to be a top priority of ours as we know it is a challenge felt within our business communities particularly in workforce development efforts.

Our stated priority reads; M.E.T.L. supports efforts to streamline state programs that impact the delivery of childcare services. This current system is spread across several state agencies, creating bureaucracy that hinders our ability to efficiently implement the necessary interventions and solutions to scale up the delivery of high quality, affordable early childcare, and education.

Based on this priority we are writing to voice neutrality. The current bill, as written, does not address the additional bureaucracy that will be created with a new department. Nor does it truly detail how programs that impact childcare services will be streamlined.

Therefore, we want to in good faith share our appreciation for the interest to change the status quo. Our support of prioritizing childcare solutions. And we hope that the measure is vetted to ensure that it does so in the most effective manner.

Respectfully submitted by:

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