

February 15, 2024

Erin Lawrence, Community Outreach Coordinator
Community Children's Center
Written-only Proponent Testimony for HB 2687
House Committee on Taxation

Chairman Smith and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of HB 2687, which would establish a state child tax credit. My name is Erin Lawrence, and I represent the Early Care and Education Workgroup in Douglas County. I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed child tax credit bill.

The collective goal of the Early Care and Education Workgroup is to reduce barriers for families: barriers such as child care, barriers such as food insecurity, and barriers such as DMV costs to renew a driver's license. As these barriers multiply, we see household stress grow. As household stress grows, parental resilience decreases. As parental resilience decreases, cases of child neglect and abuse increase. A child tax credit may appear on the surface to be nothing more than an insignificant tax break but in actuality, it is a step toward reducing barriers that currently have lifelong implications for countless children. We must do better.

On behalf of the Early Care and Education Workgroup, we ask for your support in passing this bill. There is a desperate need for a systemic shift from a mitigation mindset to one of prevention. In order to prevent child neglect and abuse, we must provide families with the support needed before it's too late. A child tax credit has the potential for exponential impact and prevention.

Thank you, Chairman Smith and members of the Committee. We look forward to standing with you as you prioritize children, pass HB 2687, and make Kansas a great place to raise a family.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at erin.lawrence@communitychildrenks.org.

Erin Lawrence

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