

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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JOHN WILSON
10TH DISTRICT

Chairman Johnson and Members of the Tax Committee:

Thank you for taking time to hear HB 2399, a bill that would reinstate the child and dependent care tax credit for Kansas families. As a father and supporter of public policy that helps working families, I stand in strong support of this bill. If you recall, I spoke in favor of a floor amendment that included the language of this bill. Though the amendment failed, it was clear that there was interest in this topic.

Before I continue, I should disclose that my wife and I currently pay \$8,840 for our son Henry to attend an in-home daycare in Lawrence, and \$10,320 for our son Parker to attend Hilltop Child Development Center at KU. That's a little over \$19,000 a year on childcare! There is a possibility that we would benefit from this tax credit should the bill pass.

Often in this building we hear the phrase, "Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas". The idea proposed in this bill could help strengthen Kansas families by making child care more affordable. According to 2015 data gather by Child Care Aware, married couples pay 14% of their income for infant care and single mothers pay 47%. In the United States, those numbers are 7%-15% and 24%-63% respectively.

By making child care just a little more affordable, we can help ensure that children start their lives in safe, high-quality child care. This positive start can help them become thriving adults later in life. Our investment in early childhood policies will pay dividends later.

I ask for your support of HB 2399. If the committee prefers a more comprehensive approach to tax policy, then I request that you consider adding this policy to that bill.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Wilson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. To the right of the signature is the handwritten number "#10".

John