



Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children

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January 19, 2022

House Children and Seniors Committee

Chairperson Concannon and Members of the Committee:

I am reaching out to you as President of Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children (KSAEYC) in support of legislation expanding access to child care and food subsidy.

KSAEYC is the state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and our mission is to promote high quality learning experiences for children birth through age 8. This is accomplished through research, education, and advocacy efforts at local, state, and national levels.

The 2020 Kansas Early Childhood Systems Building Needs Assessment states that infant and toddler care costs nearly 49% of total income for a single parent. We know that many families who qualify for assistance such as child care subsidy and SNAP nutrition are not utilizing these services, which can lead to placement in unregulated, and sometimes unsafe, care settings as well as increased food insecurity. We know that meeting the basic health and safety needs of children and families is critical to creating environments where children thrive and removing barriers to access has the potential to ensure that more families in Kansas will be able to utilize subsidy programs. This aligns with NAEYC's vision statement that "all young children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential."

I appreciate your time in reading my remarks. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide further information to the committee.

Respectfully,

Berni Howe, M.S.

President, Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children

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