

My name is Sarah Hague - I'm the Political Director of Vote Mama Foundation and speaking on behalf of the organization in strong support of Senate Bill 485.

In 2018, Vote Mama Foundation Founder & CEO Liuba Grechen Shirley petitioned the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and became the first woman to receive federal approval to use her Campaign Funds for Childcare.

This groundbreaking decision was approved by a unanimous, bipartisan vote. Over fifty federal candidates have since used their campaign funds to pay for childcare — both moms and dads, Democrats and Republicans.

However, the ruling on Liuba's request does not apply to candidates running for state and local office.

Vote Mama Foundation is the only organization working with legislators across the country to introduce legislation to approve the use of Campaign Funds for Dependent Care by state and local candidates.

We know that the first step to empowering a diverse pipeline of working caregivers to run for office is for candidates to no longer have to consider the cost of dependent care in weighing their decision to run.

Our country needs middle and working class representation now more than ever. Campaign Funds for Dependent Care breaks down a critical economic barrier to working caregivers running for office.

15 states have now passed legislation allowing the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare. We hope Kansas will become the 16th state to pass legislation allowing the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare.

14 states, including Kansas, have introduced Campaign Funds for Childcare legislation this legislative session.

Vote Mama Foundation thanks Sen. Corson for his leadership on this legislation. We urge the Committee to support SB485.

Thank you.