March 14, 2022

Mitch Rucker, Early Learning Policy Advisor
Kansas Action for Children
Proponent Testimony on HB 2237
House Committee on Financial Institutions and Rural Development

Chairperson Kelly and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on the employer child day care tax credit, which is now included within HB 2237. KAC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization that pursues policies that help all Kansas children grow up healthy and thrive.

As all Kansas families know, and as the pandemic has brought into plain view for everyone else, child care is a necessity for the day-to-day operation of a household. The unfortunate reality is that our existing child care system leaves many parents without reliable child care, businesses in the lurch when their employees can’t find someone to take care of their children, and ultimately more children without consistent early learning opportunities.

To begin to fix this, Kansas needs buy-in from all parties, parents and providers, businesses, and all levels of government. By providing a tax incentive for businesses to support employees’ child care needs, this child care tax credit now included in HB 2237 provides an important foundation for Kansas public and private sectors to work together and help Kansas families.

Kansas should make high-quality early learning opportunities affordable and accessible to all families. By expanding eligibility for the existing employer child care tax credit to all Kansas businesses, HB 2237 will support employers who want to ensure their employees have access to child care but aren’t big enough to afford that benefit on their own. It will help parents who need child care but work for one of those small businesses. Most importantly, it will give more children access to a stable early learning environment during the most critical phase of brain development.

We ask that you support HB 2237 and other efforts to make high-quality child care available to all Kansans. Thank you for your time and consideration and feel free to reach out with further questions to me at mitch@kac.org.