



March 14, 2024

**House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Chairman Sean Tarwater**

In-person Neutral Testimony, RE: SB 96

Joyce Glasscock, Executive Director, Kansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today before the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development. I'm Joyce Glasscock, Executive Director of the Kansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, here to offer comments on SB 96.

Last week Dawn McWilliams, CEO of the Topeka Boys & Girls Clubs outlined what Clubs do and how we are regulated. She noted Boys & Girls Clubs serve youth ages 5 to 18 with a focus on youth who need us most. The Kansas Alliance includes 14 local Boys & Girls Club organizations operating over 70 program sites in 23 communities and on military bases in Kansas. Clubs serve nearly 11,000 youth annually.

Boys & Girls Clubs are youth development organizations that provide before and after school programs for school-age children during the school year and during summer. Clubs offer a safe environment, supportive relationships, and enriching experiences. Clubs focus on building skills for young people in areas of health and wellness, character and leadership, and academic success. Our engagement with youth develops the skills of teamwork and communication, and ultimately youth develop targeted skills that include workforce readiness and leadership.

Our comments and concerns with SB 96 are similar to those we have outlined in previous testimony. Club sites are largely licensed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) as drop-in programs (K.S.A. 65-527). Because of our mission, we do not fit neatly into the regulatory structure designed for child care. For example, definitional distinctions around the terms child care facility and child care center can be confusing relative to out-of-school time. Additionally, child care statutes have failed at times to acknowledge the very different kind of care required for serving school-age kids, including teens we serve up to age 18.

Boys & Girls Clubs appreciate your efforts to reform statutes and regulations to ease the burden of regulatory compliance and provide clarity for organizations seeking to offer critical services to Kansas families and their children.

At last week's hearing, Chairman Tarwater encouraged us to draft amendments to HB 2785 to address our concerns. We have been coordinating with the Revisor, Representative Blew and Representative Borjon on this effort. We also have shared our proposed amendments with KDHE and the Administration.

In simplest terms, we propose to amend K.S.A 65-527 to rename "drop in programs" to "youth out of school time program" and add language to address long standing issues, some of which are unique to Clubs. In crafting the amendment we sought clarity and flexibility in the statute and regulations but were careful to assure that health, safety, fire marshal, and other regulations apply for the protection of children and maintenance of public confidence. As these issues evolve, and the final product is drafted, we ask that our amendments be included.

We are grateful for the opportunity and look forward to working with the Committee and Administration.