



Kansas  
Breastfeeding  
Coalition, Inc.

3005 Cherry Hill  
Manhattan, KS 66503  
[www.ksbreastfeeding.org](http://www.ksbreastfeeding.org)

February 23, 2023

SB 164 - Support  
Written-only Testimony

Brenda Bandy, Co-Executive Director  
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition

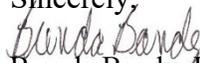
Chairwoman Tyson and members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation:

The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition (KBC) thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 164 which would provide a \$2,000 tax credit for qualified employees of licensed child care facilities.

The KBC has trained over 5,500 child care providers to support breastfeeding families. We have seen firsthand the dedication child care providers bring to their work caring for children. They play an essential role in child development and the economy, but they are consistently among the lowest paid jobs. Nationally, child care providers earn less than 98% of other occupations.<sup>1</sup> In 2019 the median wage for child care workers in Kansas was \$10.20.<sup>2</sup> A \$2,00 tax credit could be just this the thing that allows some child care providers to keep their doors open.

Investing in the child care workforce not only benefits child care providers, it also benefits the Kansas economy. During the pandemic, over 50 percent of families with young children experienced some decline in household income when child care was unavailable.<sup>3</sup> Due to low wages, child care programs have a difficult time hiring and keeping staff, resulting in less child care being available. A \$2,000 tax credit would be an incentive when hiring and retaining child care staff. Additional staff means more available child care which means more parents are able to participate in the workforce. SB 164 will have a positive ripple effect on working families looking for child care and on our state's overall economic recovery.

For these reasons, the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition respectfully urges the committee to support SB 164 as a strategy to increase access to licensed child care in Kansas.

Sincerely,  
  
Brenda Bandy, IBCLC  
Co-Executive Director  
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition  
[bbandy@ksbreastfeeding.org](mailto:bbandy@ksbreastfeeding.org)

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes399011.htm>. Accessed February 23, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> <https://csce.berkeley.edu/workforce-index-2020/states/kansas/> Accessed February 23, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/data.html>. Accessed February 23, 2023.

**Mission** To improve the health and well-being of Kansans by working collaboratively to promote, protect and support breastfeeding/human milk feeding.

**Vision** Breastfeeding/human milk feeding is normal and supported throughout Kansas.