



**Written Statement in Support of SB 164**  
**Dick Carter, Jr. – Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**Wednesday, March 1, 2023**  
**Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation**

Chair Tyson and members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation – Thank you for the opportunity to express support for SB 164, on behalf of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce.

In the fall of 2021, the Chamber created a taskforce to address child care in the Manhattan area. One of the fundamental reasons employers have a difficult time finding workers is the lack of child care in the Manhattan region. A local survey indicated that many child care providers are not able to hire enough employees, enough teachers, workers, professionals because labor market wages for child care providers are low.

Currently, there are approximately 14 licensed child care facilities in Riley County and 73 licensed in-home child care facilities, which is down from 84 in-home child care facilities in 2021. There are potentially 1391 child care slots needed, at the present time in the Manhattan area.

The Chamber supports initiatives such as SB 164, which would recognize current employees in the child care industry, and could serve as an incentive to attract additional employees.

We respectfully request that the Committee advance SB 164 to the full Senate for further consideration.