



January 25, 2024

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Kansas Action for Children
Written-only proponent testimony for SB 264
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Chairwoman Tyson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of SB 264, which would increase the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit from 25% to 50% of the federal credit. Kansas Action for Children is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to make Kansas a place where every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and thrive. We work across the political spectrum to improve the lives of Kansas children through bipartisan advocacy, partnership, and information-sharing on key issues, including early learning and education, health, and economic security for families.

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit is the only individual tax program in Kansas that helps parents defray the costs of child care. The eligibility for the credit extends to families with middle-incomes who are not eligible for other types of child care assistance.

Needed attention on the child care system is critical due to the pervasive challenges providing affordable care for young children. Much of the conversation in the past few years has been centered on the child care system infrastructure and provider supports, and we applaud those resource allocations.

Yet, helping parents with the cost of care is also a desperate need. Because parents are likely familiar with and already using the federal tax credit, the simplicity of the state credit being a portion of the federal makes it easy for parents to access—and for the state to administer. Increasing the state credit to 50% of the federal credit is an inexpensive, but impactful, solution to help Kansas parents. At an estimated total cost of \$12 million for the credit (an increase of \$6 million to raise the match), this program is overdue for improvement.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, as it provides a meaningful impact to working parents across the state. We ask you to favorably move this bill out of your committee this year and advocate for the policy to cross the finish line during the 2024 legislative session.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at adrienne@kac.org.