



March 17, 2023

Chairperson Gossage and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 234. Child Care Aware of Kansas, a network of child care resource and referral agencies, provides direct referral services to families seeking child care in Kansas. In order to provide this service, we utilize a proprietary referral database that families access via our webpage or via one-on-one support from a child care referral specialist. In 2022 alone, we completed 16,014 child care referrals.

We strongly support data privacy and protection. However, several of the provisions within SB 234 have raised significant questions and concern about the potential for unintended impacts to our ability to provide child care referrals to families.

We rely on our current ability to interface with key public data systems to maintain up-to-date information about active, compliant child care programs when assisting families seeking care. We then work with child care providers to develop a program profile that is used to connect families to child care.

Further, the organizational structure of child care programs varies greatly; not all child care programs are formally organized as a business entity with many simply operating as individuals/sole proprietors. If data about child care programs/providers (particularly those that are not formally organized as a business entity) are subject to section 4 ("personally identifiable information"), then it appears we will be required to obtain explicit written consent from child care providers each time we provide their information to families (roughly 16,000 times per year). If this is the case, our ability to provide child care referrals may be severely restricted or delayed. We further note that child care is included in the definition of social care (section 5). We do not, however, share information about families to child care providers or to other systems.

Families across Kansas are already struggling to access affordable, high-quality child care. If SB 234 restricts our ability to provide information about child care providers/programs to families, the result will be crippling – for families, for employers, and for child care providers. We respectfully propose that SB 234 be amended to exclude child care from the definition of social care or otherwise exempt child care referrals from the requirements of the bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Davydov