



February 27, 2025

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

In-person testimony in support of HB 2294

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

Chairman Tarwater and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 2294. I'm Joyce Glasscock, Executive Director of the Kansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs.

Boys & Girls Clubs serve youth ages 5 to 17 with a focus on youth who need us most. The Kansas Alliance includes 14 Boys & Girls Club organizations operating more than 70 program sites in 23 communities and on military bases in Kansas. Clubs serve more than 14,000 youth annually.

Boys & Girls Clubs are youth development organizations that provide before and after school programs during the school year and 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.

Boys & Girls Clubs appreciate efforts to reform statutes and regulations to ease the burden of child care licensing and regulatory compliance. Further, we appreciate this bill's intent as written to eliminate annual license fees for conducting a child care facility. This provision would save our Clubs—depending on their size—hundreds if not thousands of dollars annually.

Throughout drafting of this bill, we have been discussing amendments with our colleagues, legislators and the administration that included the following recommendations.

The current bill draft removed the term “drop in program” and replaced it with “youth development program as a type of license. At present, Club sites are largely licensed as “drop-in programs by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)” under K.S.A. 65-527.

Described as a child care facility where children arrive at and depart from the program at the child's own volition, this definition of drop-in program is inconsistent with practice at our organizations. We suggested the title "youth development program" defined as "a child care facility where youth activities are conducted that is not located in an individual's residence and that serves children who are enrolled in kindergarten to less than 18 years of age." We support language of the bill instructing that whenever "drop-in program or words of like effect, are referred to or designated by any statute, rule or regulation, contract or any other document, such reference or designation shall apply to a youth development program."

Since the printing of the bill we have identified four other changes we ask you to consider. The first two amendments (1 & 2) we suggest making clear that youth development programs or school age programs operating in schools that comply with the fire code do not require additional fire inspections.

1. On page 33 insert the following in New Section 40 after Line 37

(i) If a licensed youth development program or school age program operates on or within the premises of a public or private school required to pass a fire safety inspection each school year pursuant to K.S.A. 31-144(b), no additional fire safety inspection of the licensed youth development program or school age program shall be required by the executive director, state fire marshal, the fire chief, or any local political or taxing subdivision.

2. On page 35 delete all of New Section 46, Lines 28-35

New Sec. 46. (a) Licensed youth development programs and school age programs that operate on or within premises of a public or private school licensed by the state of Kansas shall be exempt from the requirements of K.S.A. 65-508(b)(3), and amendments thereto, and section 29(b)(3), and amendments thereto.

(b) Such premises shall be governed by a memorandum of understanding concerning the provisions of school inspections between the state fire marshal and the local political or taxing subdivision.

The next two amendments (3 & 4) are technical amendments that modify the definition of child to make clear that only children under the age of 18 may attend a youth development program. Allowing a person who is 18 with an individualized program plan to attend a youth development program causes regulatory confusion and may conflict with federal health and safety provisions.

3. On page 32 lines 13-14 delete the words "or is 18 years of age and has an individualized plan program."

4. On page 66 lines 11-12 delete the words "or is 18 years of age and has an individualized plan program."

Thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony.

2/25/2025

Kansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs - Amendments to HB 2294

(a) Explanation: The first two amendments (1 & 2) we suggest, make clear that youth development programs or school age programs operating in schools that comply with the fire code, do not need additional fire inspections.

1. On page 33 insert the following in New Section 40 after Line 37 and renumber (i) to (j).

(i) If a licensed youth development program or school age program operates on or within the premises of a public or private school required to pass a fire safety inspection each school year pursuant to K.S.A. 31-144(b), no additional fire safety inspection of the licensed youth development program or school age program shall be required by the executive director, state fire marshal, the fire chief, or any local political or taxing subdivision.

2. On Page 35. Delete all of New Section 46, Lines 28-35 as follows:

New Sec. 46. (a) Licensed youth development programs and school age programs that operate on or within premises of a public or private school licensed by the state of Kansas shall be exempt from the requirements of K.S.A. 65-508(b)(3), and amendments thereto, and section 29(b)(3), and amendments thereto.

(b) Such premises shall be governed by a memorandum of understanding concerning the provisions of school inspections between the state fire marshal and the local political or taxing subdivision.

(B) Explanation: The next two amendments (3 & 4) are technical amendments that modify the definition of child to make clear that only children under the age of 18 may attend a youth development program. Allowing a person who is 18 with an individualized program plan to attend a youth development program causes regulatory confusion and may conflict with federal health and safety provisions.

3. On page 32 lines 13-14 delete the words “or is 18 years of age and has an individualized plan program.”

4. On page 66 lines 11-12 delete the words “or is 18 years of age and has an individualized plan program.”