



To: Representative Sean Tarwater, Chair and Members, House Commerce Committee

From: Kylee Childs, Director of Government Affairs, LeadingAge Kansas

Date: 2/13/2025

LeadingAge Kansas is the state association for not-for-profit and mission-focused aging services. We have 150 member organizations across Kansas, which include not-for-profit nursing homes, retirement communities, hospital long-term care units, assisted living, home plus, senior housing, low-income housing, home health agencies, home and community-based service programs, PACE and Meals on Wheels. Our members serve more than 25,000 older Kansans each day and employ more than 20,000 people across the state.

Proponent Testimony on HB2294

The healthcare workforce, specifically within aging services and long-term care, are struggling. Part of this can be attributed to the needs of the workforce which often include childcare and the availability of childcare being limited. Some of our adult care homes, including nursing homes, assisted living, and home plus facilities, have already established childcare on-site offering a needed service to not only recruit and retain their own staff, but offer a general service to the community workforce as well.

Adult care homes are well-positioned to support not only the elderly but also the state's broader childcare needs. Establishing the Intergenerational Child Care Fund will enable adult care homes to offer childcare services, creating a mutually beneficial environment where both children and older adults can thrive. This initiative supports both the recruitment and retention of nursing staff—by alleviating childcare challenges for employees—and helps expand childcare slots across the state.

Furthermore, studies consistently show that such programs improve the health outcomes of both children and older adults, making this initiative a win-win for Kansas families and communities. Not only does it address a critical shortage of childcare slots, but it also promotes the well-being of Kansas residents across all ages.

Include Language Related to Intergenerational Childcare Fund

Our request for HB2294 would be to add language from HB2339 related to the Intergenerational Childcare Fund to establish a fund for adult care homes to tap into funding to assist with establishing new childcare services or to expand or enhance their current services. Based on the hearing previously held on HB2339 we would recommend a few amendments:

In HB2339 on page 2, lines 1-4:

- (1) Assist ~~newly~~ licensed adult care homes in covering start-up costs associated with establishing child care services; and

(2) support programming and operational costs for ~~existing~~ adult care homes offering *existing* child care services.

In HB2339, on page 2, line 22-23 by inserting a new (4):

(4) documented evidence the applicant has completed sexual offender registry checks for each resident associated with their adult care home; and

(5) such other criteria, requirements or standards as may be adopted by the secretary.

We kindly request you support this forward-thinking legislation, which strengthens our adult care home workforce, addresses childcare needs, and enhances the health and well-being of both our elderly and our children.

Thank you for your consideration.