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Public Comment on KSDE Budget
House K-12 Education Budget Committee

Dear Chair Goetz and Members of the Committee,

As superintendent of Coffeyville Public Schools, I am testifying about the critical importance of the Child Care Capacity Accelerator Grant. Our district's preschool program, which has consistently thrived through strategic grant funding, demonstrates the transformative potential of targeted investments in early childhood education.

This year, we've pioneered an innovative approach by establishing on-site child care for our staff and community members. The \$10 million grant would enable districts like ours to expand such crucial programs. Currently, our facility serves close to 200 students in preschool and 8 children in childcare, leaving our community in a child-care desert.

Grant funding would allow us to:

- Improve facility infrastructure
- Increase enrollment capacity
- Support working families
- Provide high-quality early learning environments

These investments directly support workforce development, local economic stability, and children's educational foundations.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Dr. Craig A. Correll
Superintendent
Coffeyville Public Schools