



SENATE CHAMBER

**Dinah Sykes**

**Senate Minority Leader**

**Chase Blasi**

**Senate Majority Leader**

Madam Chair and Committee Members,

This testimony is joint from Majority Leader Blasi and Minority Leader Sykes in our support of SB 179 today. You probably saw we co-sponsored this legislation. This committee is no stranger to the economic struggles of Kansans today. Inflation and the high cost of living did not spare the cost of childcare. Seniors are living on fixed incomes, our youth are trying to figure out how to afford a home with skyrocketing prices and property taxes, and stuck in the middle are our families trying to balance a budget to keep food on their children's tables. We sponsored this bill because we believe the conversation needs to be had about the cost of childcare in this state and what can be done to lower it.

Birth rates are continuously declining, and we fear it is cause Kansans are presented with options as doleful as having another child or not being able to give the children they have the care that they deserve. Movie tickets, road trips, sports games, a family dinner out, all of the things that most of our parents were able to bless us with as children are harder for families to afford today.

This bill represents a crucial step in supporting Kansas families by providing a refundable child tax credit for children under the age of six. By offering financial relief to parents at the most critical stage of their child's development, SB 179 will ease economic burdens and encourage family stability. Ensuring that families, particularly those with lower and middle incomes, have additional resources to support their children's early years is not just good policy—it is a moral imperative that strengthens our communities and state economy.

The structure of the tax credit is designed to be fair and equitable, with benefits adjusted based on income to ensure those who need it most receive the greatest support. By indexing the credit and income thresholds to inflation, SB 179 guarantees that its impact remains relevant over time. This measure directly addresses the rising costs of childcare, healthcare, and essential needs, allowing families to invest in their children's well-being without the constant strain of financial insecurity. So many of Kansas's problems are centered around one core issue... population. If we cannot grow our state's population, the future we all want for Kansas can't happen. Year after year, censuses come in with the same grim news. Until we're ready to make Kansas a more inviting place to raise a family we fear we'll continue to face the same news.

We appreciate the committee and the Chair for hearing this bill today and hope the committee understands the tax issues facing young families. Thank you for the opportunity to provide

proponent testimony today and please reach out to either of our offices with questions regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

Senate Majority Leader Blasi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Blasi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent loop under the "B".

Senate Minority Leader Sykes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald H. Sykes". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large "D" and "S".