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Annell Harmon
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Written-Only Proponent Testimony for SB 513
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Chair Billinger and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of SB 513, which strengthens Kansas' Child Care Assistance program through direct-to-provider payments.

Reliable child care is essential for Kansas' workforce and economy, yet families and child care providers continue to face avoidable challenges in navigating the Child Care Assistance Program. SB 513 addresses these challenges by removing long-standing barriers, strengthening the child care workforce, and improving families' access to the care they need to work and thrive. This legislation accomplishes this by requiring coordinated leadership between DCF and KOEC while supporting sustainable, responsive implementation.

SB 513 modernizes child care assistance payment processes by creating a streamlined system that works for the families and child care providers who rely on the program.

My name is Annell Harmon of Harmon & Harmon Family Child Care. I am a home-based child care provider/educator in Wichita. With 35 years of experience as a home-based educator and a contracted provider for the Kansas Department for Children and Families, I have a deep understanding of the subsidy system.

I strongly support SB 513 because it alleviates the administrative burden on child care providers. While the current model aims to empower parents in the payment process, the practical reality is that the burden of managing and collecting these funds has fallen squarely on the providers.

Thank you for discussing this important bill. This bill allows us to focus our energy where it belongs: on the children in our care.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at annellharmon@hotmail.com