

Written statement in support of Senate Bill 164
Wednesday, March 1, 2023
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, consisting of 565 Chambers Members, strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 164, which would provide a \$2000 tax credit for qualified employees of licensed childcare facilities. We believe that this legislation is a critical step towards addressing the ongoing childcare crisis that is impacting families, providers, and facilities across our state.

The shortage of qualified childcare workers is a significant challenge for many licensed facilities. By providing a tax credit for these workers, we can incentivize more individuals to pursue careers in childcare, ultimately increasing the supply of workers and helping to address the shortage.

Moreover, this legislation recognizes the significant challenges that families face in finding affordable, high-quality childcare. By supporting the workers who provide this essential service, we can help to ensure that families have access to the care they need, and that childcare facilities have the support they need to operate effectively.

We believe that the childcare crisis is a critical issue that requires creative solutions. Just in Barton County alone, over 900 children are in need of childcare with over 500 adults being taken out of the workforce.

The \$2000 tax credit proposed in Senate Bill 164 is one such solution, and we urge our lawmakers to support this important legislation. If enacted into state law, we believe Senate Bill 164 will provide a tangible benefit to helping ease what has become an enormous hardship for many Kansas parents and businesses.

Together, we can help to ensure that all families have access to the quality childcare they need, and that our childcare providers have the support they need to succeed.