



To: Senator Caryn Tyson and Members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
From: Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Date: 1 March 2023

Senator Tyson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 164. As we meet with our members, one issue has been raised over and over – the lack of workers to fill available jobs. The U.S. Chamber has reported that for every 100 jobs open in Kansas there are only 60 workers available to fill those jobs.

In our conversations, we are seeing a common thread – lack of access to childcare is creating a barrier for people to return to work. The childcare tax credit provided for in SB 164 not only provides a valuable benefit to existing childcare workers but creates an incentive that may entice more people to consider employment in this important field. Finding more childcare workers is critical to helping fill other vacant jobs across the state.

While we are going on record as supporting this legislation, I would offer that our support should be viewed as support for the concept of supporting childcare workers and helping our childcare facilities to return to full operation. The fiscal note for this legislation was not available at the time our testimony was due to the committee.

The Overland Park Chamber believes the state should operate within the guardrails of a responsible budget. Without the ability to evaluate the full fiscal impact of the legislation, we felt it was important to provide this qualification to our support while still expressing support for this effort to encourage and reward childcare workers in Kansas.