



Public Health
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Unified Government Public Health Department

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Neutral Testimony on SB 282

**FROM: Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City,
KS Public Health Department**

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce

March 8, 2023

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee,

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS does not have a legislative position on childcare licensing issues. However, the Public Health Department has concerns with Section 12 of SB 282, which would transition childcare licensing services from localities to the state department of health.

We are provided funding from KDHE to support, inspect, and annually license childcare providers in Wyandotte County. It is a responsibility that we take extremely seriously and perform to the highest standard. As an agency currently performing inspections, we are surprised not to have been consulted or informed about this legislation.

In addition to the annual, unscheduled inspections which are the core of the childcare licensing program, the Public Health Department has built strong relationships with local childcare providers. These relationships help childcare providers understand and meet their annual requirements; improve their quality standards; and keep communication warm so that childcare providers come to us for help when needed. After hours events at the Health Department routinely draw 25-50 providers for technical assistance and networking. This level of connection and assistance improves quality and keeps children safe in Wyandotte County.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony describing what our local health department is currently doing to ensure safe childcare in our community.

Sincerely,

Wesley McKain, Policy & Development Manager
Unified Government Public Health