



Good afternoon, my name is Sarah Hague - I'm the Chief Program Officer at Vote Mama Foundation and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the organization in strong support of House Bill 114.

Childcare obligations are one of the major factors families consider when weighing their decision to run for office. In many states, it costs more to send an infant to childcare than a mortgage payment. This is not an expense everyday families can take on - especially when campaigning.

In 2018, the Federal Election Commission approved federal candidates' option to spend campaign funds on childcare through a unanimous, bipartisan vote.

However, this ruling does not apply to state and local candidates. Vote Mama Foundation is working to approve the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare by state and local candidates in all 50 states.

As of today, 30 states, both Democratic and Republican, have brought their state statutes in line with federal regulations. States like Arkansas, Kentucky, Montana, Georgia, North Carolina, and West Virginia all allow for candidates to use their campaign dollars on caregiver expenses.

This legislation is a bipartisan initiative for moms and dads alike. As with any other campaign finance allowance, this bill creates an option for use and is not a mandate - candidates don't have to use campaign funds on caregiving expenses if they don't want to. Usage would be required to be reported as any other campaign finance expense.

I urge the Senate General Government Committee to support HB114 and vote it favorably out of committee.