

Tawana Drakes

Mimi's Home Care

February 26, 2025

Testimony on House Bill 96

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on HB 96. My name is Tawana Drakes, I am the owner of Mimi's Home Care and I represent the CEO Project. I am here to ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the childcare improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially reimbursing based on enrollment and funding federally required changes to copay caps.

As a provider in Montgomery County, there is a need for providers to get reimbursed based on enrollment, for providers across the state the cost of care stays the same regardless of our attendance. Providers must eat the cost of food, staffing and other daily and monthly expenses, even when children are not in attendance. I have been in the field of childcare for over 25 years, and I would like to see these issues take effect at the start of the new budget and not in 2027. Delays will make it more and more difficult for me to continue to operate my business in a deficit. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on the issues of reimbursing based on enrollment and funding federally required changes to copay caps. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.