

Tashianna Kwakye

Sister Sister Childcare: First Steps LLC

Centerville Early Learning & Training LLC

Cornerstone Learning Academy LLC

Compass Early Learning LLC

February 27, 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 Tashianna Kwakye, I run multiple small businesses here in Ohio 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 investing in childcare as the workforce behind the workforce, raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance, and reimbursing based on enrollment.

As a childcare provider, in Columbus, Dayton, and soon Grove City, Warren, Westerville, my businesses must be able to attract workers and offer them a livable wage and benefits to keep our programs open for business. Raising the eligibility rate for childcare would allow more individuals to enter the workforce and consider careers in early childhood education. Reimbursing providers based on enrollment stabilizes our revenue streams thus stabilizing our businesses and helping us expand.

I have been a business owner for more than twelve years. I have served countless Ohio's families over the years. One of the greatest barriers to operating a healthy business in Ohio is having to turn away qualified teachers because they do not qualify for childcare assistance. Another hardship to owning a childcare business in Ohio is losing income when a student or his/her family faces a barrier, and the child is unable to attend.

Again, I ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the childcare improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially investing in childcare as the workforce behind the workforce, raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance, and reimbursing based on enrollment.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tashianna Kwakye". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.