

March 17, 2025

The Honorable Andrea White
Chairwomen, House Children & Human Services Committee
Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: KinderCare- Support H.B 41 - Child Care Capacity Grant Program

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the House Children & Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill 41 , the state's operating budget bill.

KinderCare, representing our 95 high quality early learning centers and 44 before/after school Champions programs, serving nearly 12,000 children and employing over 2,000 teachers & staff, commends the child care investments you all have championed over the years. At KinderCare, we are committed to serving children and families of all backgrounds by creating an environment that allows for all who want affordable childcare to receive it. HB 41 will create such opportunities that will give families more options in affording childcare and building out new opportunities in the workforce that supports their individual family needs.

House Bill 41 will allow for several impactful changes:

- **Child Care Capacity Grant Program** – The appropriation of \$10 million annually in FY 2026 and 2027 will allow employers to retrofit, equip, or build new child care facilities. By fostering public-private partnerships, this initiative will create much-needed child care capacity in Ohio's communities, helping families balance work and caregiving responsibilities while strengthening the state's workforce.
- **Prioritizing High-Need Applicants** – By focusing on employers, government entities, and nonprofit organizations seeking to expand child care services, the bill ensures that funding reaches those who can have the most immediate and significant impact on increasing child care accessibility.
- **Employer-Based Child Care Learning Lab** – The additional \$250,000 appropriation per fiscal year for the creation of a learning lab will help employers navigate funding opportunities, tax credits, and partnerships needed to establish on-site or near-site child care facilities. This hands-on guidance will empower businesses to take an active role in solving child care shortages while supporting employee retention and recruitment.
- **Focus on Rural and Underserved Communities** – House Bill 41 recognizes that access to child care is particularly challenging in rural and underserved areas. By prioritizing these communities, Ohio is taking a proactive step to ensure child care solutions are equitable and accessible statewide.



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We appreciate you for recognizing the importance of high quality ECE. Please consider KinderCare a committed partner to expanding access to quality, affordable ECE programs throughout Ohio. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Austin.Railey@kindercare.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AR III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Austin Railey III
Government Relations Representative
KinderCare Learning Companies