

March 17, 2025

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

RE: KinderCare Support for H.B. 2 - Establish Child Care Cred Program

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and Members of the House Children & Human Services Committee Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 2, a grant program to expand child care capacity, support the state's workforce, and aid in business growth and recruitment, on behalf of KinderCare Learning Companies.

KinderCare Learning Companies proudly serves over 11,500 young children at our 96 high-quality early learning centers and 39 before/after school Champions sites across Ohio. Our world class educators build confidence in students by providing high-quality educational experiences that meet the unique developmental needs of every child in our care. KinderCare serves all children regardless of background and financial circumstance. Approximately 45% of the children we serve depend on financial assistance offered through Ohio's Publicly Funded Child Care program.

KinderCare is proud to support HB 2 (Johnson) and the creation of the Ohio Child Care Cred Program. We commend the program's efforts to share childcare costs and strengthen partnerships between employers, working parents, childcare providers, and the Department of Children and Youth (DCY). Far too many hardworking Ohioan families cannot afford or access high-quality care, resulting in decreased work hours or dropping out of the workforce all together. A public-private partnership model is needed to make childcare more affordable for families while supporting quality in early learning settings.

For these reasons, KinderCare strongly supports HB 2 through the legislative process. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at Austin.Railey@kindercare.com.

Sincerely,



Austin Railey III
Government Relations Representative
KinderCare Learning Companies