

April 28, 2025

Ohio House Children and Human Services Committee

Chairperson White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and  
Members of the House Children and Human Services Committee:

My name is Chad Nunamaker, and I am the Executive Director and  
Communication Manager for the Southwest Ohio Association for the  
Education of Young Children. We are a proud state-level affiliate of the  
National Association for the Education of Young Children, serving  
Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, and 16 surrounding counties. We promote  
high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by  
connecting practice, policy, and research. We believe that all young  
children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach  
their full potential.



Early childhood educators are essential to children's healthy development, family success, and community prosperity. Across Ohio, families struggle to find affordable, high-quality early care and education, and early childhood educators face low wages and difficult working conditions that push them out of the field.

The early years are critical. High-quality early care and education, grounded in developmentally appropriate practice, lays the foundation for future learning, health, and well-being. Children benefit greatly from stable, nurturing relationships with skilled early childhood educators. Without meaningful investment, too many children and families are left without access to these critical opportunities.

House Bill 2 offers an important solution by encouraging public-private partnerships through the Child Care Cred program. Sharing the cost of high-quality early care and education among employers, employees, and the state can make it more affordable, while also stabilizing programs and supporting early childhood educators. We urge you to see early childhood educators not only as part of the workforce, but as the workforce behind the workforce. Investing in programs that benefit children, families, and early childhood educators, such as the Child Care Cred program, is investing in Ohio's future.

We thank Representative Johnson for his leadership and respectfully urge your support for House Bill 2. Together, we can build a system where every child, family, and early childhood educator has the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,

Ross "Chad" Nunamaker, MSE  
Executive Director & Communication Manager  
Southwest Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children  
[chad.nunamaker@swoaeyc.org](mailto:chad.nunamaker@swoaeyc.org)