

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.



House Bill 7 takes critical steps to ensure that Ohio’s most vulnerable young children, particularly those in foster and kinship care, have access to stable, high-quality early care and education environments. Knowledgeable and skilled early childhood educators understand that consistency, nurturing relationships, and developmentally appropriate practice are key to healing the effects of adversity and developmental trauma.

Children who have experienced separation from parents, abuse, neglect, or household instability face significant emotional and developmental challenges. These types of adversity and developmental trauma are often referred to in the field as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Providing children who have experienced ACEs with access to high-quality early care and education is not just a support for families, but a powerful protective factor that fosters resilience and long-term success for young children and their families.

Foster and kinship caregivers are crucial in providing children with stability and love. However, the cost of high-quality early care and education often creates additional strain at a time when foster and kinship caregivers are already managing complex emotional and financial responsibilities. House Bill 7 would provide critical relief by extending eligibility for publicly funded child care (PFCC) to these families. Supporting foster and kinship caregivers strengthens children's developmental outcomes, stabilizes family units, and ensures that more families can meet the growing need for loving homes.

We thank Representatives White and Ray for their leadership and respectfully urge the Committee to support House Bill 7. Every child deserves to grow, learn, and thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

Sincerely,

Ross “Chad” Nunamaker, MSE
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