

3/2/26

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anntionet Coppola, and I am a parent of a child enrolled at Pitter Patter Learning Center. I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to House Bill 647 because of the harm it would cause to my child, my family, and the childcare providers our community depends on.

As a working parent, reliable childcare is not optional, it is essential. My childcare provider allows me to work, maintain stability in my household, and ensure my child is in a safe, nurturing, and educational environment. House Bill 647 threatens that stability by allowing immediate suspension of a provider's license and funding based on suspicion alone, before any investigation is completed or due process is provided.

If my child's center were suddenly closed or suspended without warning, my family would be thrown into crisis. I could lose income, risk my employment, and struggle to find alternative care especially on short notice. Children like mine would lose consistency, emotional security, and access to early learning environments that are critical to their development.

This bill also places unfair pressure on childcare providers who already operate under intense regulation and staffing shortages. When providers are treated as guilty before proven innocent, parents like me lose trust in the system meant to support families. Providers may choose to close rather than risk losing everything overnight, further shrinking access to childcare in our community.

Most importantly, my child would suffer. Young children need stability, routine, and trusted caregivers. Sudden closures disrupt emotional well-being, learning progress, and a child's sense of safety. House Bill 647 does not protect children it destabilizes their lives.

I believe accountability and oversight are important, but they must be balanced with fairness and due process. This bill goes too far and places the burden of its consequences on children and families who have done nothing wrong.

I urge you to oppose House Bill 647 and work with parents and providers to create policies that truly protect children while supporting the families and caregivers who serve them.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective.

Respectfully,
Anntionet Coppola
Parent, Pitter Patter Learning Center