

Tashianna Kwakye
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Testimony on House Bill 647

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony today on HB 647. My name is Tashianna Kwakye, I am a childcare business owner, and I represent the CEO Project. I agree with the good citizens of Ohio that accountability is crucial in all industries. However, I oppose HB 647 as the bill is currently written because:

1. It violates our fundamental right to due process based on the suspicion of fraud without evidence and fair review.
2. Approving HB 647 would mean a loss of presumptive eligibility. Presumptive eligibility gives childcare businesses assurance that if a family qualified, we would be paid. Without presumptive eligibility, providers must either turn families away or assume financial risk we cannot afford.
3. Attendance-based payment systems are not realistic models for our industry. Childcare businesses must pay fixed costs associated with staff wages, facility rent/mortgages, utilities, insurance, etc., even when a child is absent.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that accountability is good for businesses, taxpayers, and Ohio's entire economy. I propose that we search for means that allow for due process, fair compensation for rendered services, and realistic payment models.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Tashianna Kwakye