

3/2/26

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Children develop important social skills, empathy, and problem-solving abilities through daily interactions at their childcare centers. Sudden closures caused by House Bill 647 would disrupt friendships, daily routines, and critical early learning opportunities, setting children back emotionally and socially.

My child, like many others, depends on consistency and structure to feel safe and thrive.

Removing her trusted environment abruptly would not only interrupt her social development but also create stress and anxiety that could last long after the center reopens, or alternative care is found.

I urge the committee to consider the impact on children's social and emotional growth and to reject House Bill 647. Policies should strengthen, not destabilize, the developmental opportunities that every child deserves.

Respectfully,

Ja'Veonna Graves

Parent, Pitter Patter Learning Center