

Testimony in Support of House Bill 647 – Childcare Funding

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Brittany Baker, and I am a working mother of four young children from Dayton, Ohio. I am writing to provide my testimony in strong support of House Bill 647 and to share how critical childcare funding is for families like mine.

In today's world, childcare is not optional—it is essential. Without reliable and affordable childcare, I am unable to maintain employment, support my family, or contribute fully to the workforce and the broader economy. Like many parents, I want to work, to be productive, and to provide stability for my children, but this is simply not possible without adequate childcare support.

The cost of childcare has risen to an unsustainable level, especially for families with multiple young children. Childcare fees often rival or exceed housing costs. This places parents in an impossible position: leave the workforce altogether or work only to pay for childcare, with little left to support our basic needs. No parent should be forced into that choice.

House Bill 647 is an important step toward addressing this crisis. Increased childcare funding and improved access to quality, affordable childcare will help parents like me remain employed, support our families, and contribute meaningfully to our communities. Childcare is not just a family issue—it is an economic necessity. When parents are pushed out of the workforce due to childcare barriers, businesses lose skilled workers and communities lose economic participation.

I strongly urge you to support and advance House Bill 647. Families like mine depend on this legislation not to get ahead, but simply to survive and participate fully in today's society.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony and for recognizing the challenges faced by working families across Ohio.

Sincerely,
Brittany Baker
Dayton, Ohio