

3/2/26

**To the Chair, Committee Members, and Representative Phil Plummer:**

My name is **Zandra Phillips**, and I am the owner of **Pitter Patter Learning Center** in Dayton, Ohio. I am here today to share my perspective as a childcare provider on how **House Bill 647** would affect my business, the families we serve, and the children in our care.

**I. Impact on Child Care Providers**

As a licensed provider, I am already under strict regulations and oversight. While I support measures that protect public funds, HB 647 introduces **immediate suspension powers** that could threaten a provider's financial stability **before due process is completed**.

Maintaining compliance is costly administrative time, record-keeping, and responding to investigations would increase operational burdens, particularly for **small businesses like mine**.

The risk of sudden closure or halted payments could endanger my ability to **keep staff employed** and maintain a stable environment for children.

**II. Impact on Families**

Families rely on **stable childcare** to work and support their households. Sudden disruptions could force parents into **expensive alternatives** or even leave children without care temporarily.

While the bill does not reduce eligibility, the **fear of abrupt provider suspensions** creates anxiety for families and may lead them to question the reliability of our program.

**III. Impact on Children's Education and Wellbeing**

Consistency is critical for early childhood education. Abrupt closures disrupt routines, social-emotional development, and learning opportunities.

Children thrive in familiar environments with trusted educators; instability caused by immediate enforcement actions could **negatively affect their growth**.

**IV. Impact on the Community and Economy**

Reliable childcare supports workforce participation. If providers face financial or operational risk, parents may be forced to **reduce hours or leave work**, impacting local businesses and the broader economy.

Strong oversight is important, but it must **balance fraud prevention** with the need to sustain childcare availability, particularly in communities already underserved.

**V. Concerns and Recommendations**

- The **immediate suspension authority** should be paired with **clear safeguards and due process** to protect legitimate providers.
- **Compliance support and resources** for small providers could strengthen integrity without threatening financial stability.
- **Engaging childcare owners** in implementation decisions could reduce unintended consequences for families and children.

**Conclusion**

House Bill 647 has a noble goal—to protect public funds and ensure program integrity—but its current design could create **financial and operational risks for providers, disrupt childcare for families, and impact children's education**. I urge lawmakers, including Representative Plummer, to consider **safeguards and supports** to ensure the bill strengthens oversight **without unintentionally harming the very children and families it aims to serve**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.