Written Proponent Testimony Provided by
David Cordonnier, Manager of Engagement, Dayton Development Coalition
on Senate Bill 218
Ohio House Children and Human Services Committee
June 8, 2026

Chair White, Vice-Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the House Children and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present written proponent testimony on Senate Bill 218, exempting family child care providers certified by the U.S. armed forces from state licensure.

The Dayton Development Coalition is a regional economic development organization whose mission is to support job creation and opportunity for the citizens of the Dayton Region. In addition, the Dayton Development Coalition works closely with aerospace and defense partners to promote Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Springfield Air National Guard Base.

We commend Senator Roegner for sponsoring this important piece of legislation supporting military families. Currently, family child care providers certified through Wright-Patterson Air Force Base are required to obtain dual licensure with the Ohio Department of Children and Youth and the Department of War. This extra layer of regulation can be a deterrent for individuals to become providers and is a problem easily fixed by eliminating the state requirement.

The bill is supported by the Department of War because its passage could improve the lives of military families. These in-home providers are helping to increase child care capabilities in military communities and working to meet the growing demand for childcare. In 2024, the Senate Armed Services committee reported about 12,000 children were on the waitlists with a staff shortage of about 3,900 caregivers. Easing the licensure requirements creates a more appealing process for providers and can lead to more interest in becoming a family child care provider.

Senate Bill 218 does not only serve military children but also has an impact on military spouses. According to a Blue Star Families report, about one-third of military spouses that want to work state that lack of child care is a barrier while Military OneSource's 2021 Survey of Active Duty Spouses found that 46% of active-duty spouses have children under 6 living at home. This bill will lead to more child care space but can also lead to

employment opportunities. Often times these family child care providers are miliary spouses, so Senate Bill 218 is not only supporting the military spouse that desires to work outside of the home; it's also supporting the military spouse that is looking to work as a provider in their own home.

With Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in our region, we actively support the military families and their frequent relocation. When they receive their change of station assignment, their first thoughts are about their children. Where will they go to school? Where would their child care be? How is this move going to impact them? Easing that transition translates to mission readiness for our national defense and this legislature has the ability, with the passage of Senate Bill 218, to once again support our active duty military and their families.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 218 and I urge your support.