



From: Kathleen Lamb Tyler
In GOD'S Hands Christian Youth Center

April 2nd, 2025

RE: Testimony on House Bill 96

Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on HB 96. My name is Kathleen Tyler, I own and operate In GOD'S Hands Christian Youth Center, and I represent the CEO Project. I have served children and families in the Cincinnati community for over 25 years and provided employment for many. I am here to ask that you support Ohio kids, families, staff and early learning centers by including the childcare improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, most importantly, *investing in childcare as the workforce behind the workforce*, funding federally required changes to copay and caps, reimbursing based on enrollment and raising eligibility for childcare assistance for parents.

My lived experience as a small business owner in Hamilton County informs my request and provides unique insight into the problems facing our industry. This March I lost a key staff member, who was forced out of her housing and unable to find adequate housing that she could afford. Without the increase in the reimbursement rates, we cannot provide a sustainable wage for our staff. Most of our staff receive support and battle the cliff effect, creating a barrier for increased wages. Our system is broken. This is not a partisan issue; It's a people issue. Ohio's children will suffer or excel based upon your decision. I ask that you approve the budget without changes, except to take leadership and increase the reimbursement rates for Early Education centers in Ohio. Raising eligibility for families, investing in building a workforce for early education is an investment in Ohio's children. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Lamb Tyler

*E*ducating Children, *S*erving Families, *A*ffecting Communities