



Tim Schaffer
20th District

Ohio Senate
Senate Building
Room 137, First Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8076
sd20@ohiosenate.gov

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**Senate Finance Committee
Senate Bill 32 — Sponsor Testimony
Tuesday, February 18, 2025**

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 32 alongside my joint sponsor, Senator Michelle Reynolds.

My interest in this legislation came last year after I participated in a business roundtable discussion in Fairfield County.

There I heard directly from employers in my district expressing a need for affordable childcare to help give families new opportunities to enter the workforce.

Many businesses say they could expand, except for the lack of workforce.

It was discussed that other states like Michigan and North Carolina had established a cost-sharing program to address this issue.

As a result of that discussion, Senate Bill 32 will establish the Child Care Cred program to create a cost-sharing model between the employee, employer, and Department of Children and Youth to help parents afford quality childcare so they can enter the workforce.

It is critical we support our families as they seek to be part of Ohio's strong workforce, and this program will get us started down a path for success.

I wanted to thank Senator Reynolds for inviting me to join our efforts in this area and hope to get this legislation across the finish line to give Ohio families much needed relief in terms of childcare cost and provide them new opportunities to earn a living and support their families.

The \$10 million appropriation is a good point for this discussion as Ohio seeks to establish this new program and join Michigan and North Carolina in leading the nation in this area.

Thank you once again Chairman Cirino and members of the committee for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.