

Tawana Drakes

Mimi's Home Care

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Testimony on Sub Bill House 96

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Tawana Drakes, I run Mimi's Home Care, and I represent the CEO Project. I am here to ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by providing a more comprehensive funding approach to childcare.

As a childcare provider in Montgomery, we must raise the eligibility rate from 145% to at least 160% of the federal poverty level, as the Governor had introduced in the original budget.

Going from Attendance Policy to Enrollment Policy will take the burden off of my business and other business owners in the state, who have to eat the cost of employee and overhead cost when a client does not bring a child in for care.

Although this budget makes strides in the right direction toward helping the childcare crisis in Ohio, we are still left with an extreme shortage of workers who are needed to fill the positions in our industry.

I am also requesting that you support adding Senate Bill 177 to the budget. This business-friendly bill, supported by Ohio Chamber allows childcare employees free childcare in exchange for work.

By doing these things I have mentioned, I believe that we will no longer be last as a state in childcare funding.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony today.