



Zandra Phillips
Pitter Patter Learning Center
June 6, 2025

Testimony on Senate Bill 177 – Senate Finance Committee

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

My name is Zandra Phillips, and I am the owner of Pitter Patter Learning Center in Montgomery County. I also represent the Care Economy Organizing (CEO) Project. I'm here today to urge you to support Ohio's children, families, and childcare providers by including Senate Bill 177 in the state budget.

Senate Bill 177 – Free Childcare for Childcare Workers:

This bill, supported by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, is a practical and business-friendly approach to addressing Ohio's childcare crisis. It would allow childcare workers to receive free childcare for their own children in exchange for their service in the field. These workers would still earn their wages, and the state would cover the cost of their children's care while also collecting taxes on the employee's income. This creates a win-win: it strengthens the childcare workforce, opens more classroom slots for families, and supports working parents across Ohio. As a business owner with over 10 years of experience operating a licensed childcare center, I've served hundreds of families in the Dayton area. I know firsthand how difficult it is to recruit and retain qualified staff, especially when those very workers can't afford care for their own children.

SB 177 directly addresses this issue and would be a game-changer for providers like me and for the parents we serve.

I respectfully ask that you support adding Senate Bill 177 to the budget. This business-friendly bill allows childcare employees to receive free childcare in exchange for work, creating stability in the workforce and increasing access to care for families throughout Ohio.

By implementing this solution, we can move Ohio forward and end our state's long-standing struggle with inadequate childcare funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Zandra Phillips

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Owner

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