

**Ohio Senate
Finance Committee
House Bill 110
Scarlett Hilton]
05/11/2020**

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the committee, my name is Scarlett Hilton and I am the owner/operator of Hilton Daycare. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony expressing my support for expanding the initial child care eligibility to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in House Bill 110.

If we want families to be able to work, and provide for their children, we must fund childcare. Right now, I am one of seven providers in my county who can take state subsidy payments. However, many families are not able to have two income households, because the second person going to work puts them just above the income limits for childcare and would have to pay a whole paycheck each week towards childcare. Not only do we need more high quality, reliable childcare, but it needs to be affordable to families. Doing this is the only way to dig ourselves out of the disastrous economy that Covid-19 has helped create. Childcare was in big trouble before Covid

For all the reasons stated above, I am respectfully urging you to consider expanding initial eligibility for the publicly funded child care subsidy from 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 150% of the FPL. The pandemic has made clear now more than ever that if we want to have a thriving economy, we need increased access to quality child care so that parents and caregivers can return to work and stay on the job. Now is the time for us to double down on our commitment to Ohio's youngest and most vulnerable children, as well as the families who support them. The Ohio General Assembly has the opportunity to keep Ohioans working and businesses operating, help families break out of poverty, and ensure more Ohio children have access to high-quality early learning by expanding access to quality and affordable child care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today and please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly if you have any questions.