



March 7, 2023

Testimony Of

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Owner/Operator of Over the Rainbow childcare centers in Toledo, Ohio

Ohio House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
Proponent of HB 33 provisions relating to publicly funded childcare

Chair Carruthers, Ranking Member Dr. Liston, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services: My name is Michelle Bieber and I am the owner and operator of the Over the Rainbow child care centers in Toledo. I am here today as the current President of the Ohio Association of Child Care Providers (OACCP). OACCP represents Directors and Business Owners of over 600 licensed child care centers. Our members educate and care for over 50,000 of Ohio's youngest children, including private pay and publicly funded children, who are served in faith based, for-profit and non-profit programs.

I am here today to convey our support for the childcare provisions in the HB n33, especially the creation of the new Department of Children and Youth. By centralizing programs that serve children, we on the front lines of childcare believe having one department will have stream-lined and more transparent policies that are aligned.

I fully respect your position of being accountable stewards and having the responsibility of being fiscally sound for the taxpayers of Ohio. I would only expect this from the elected officials who are responsible on investing in Ohio. This is why we are here today.

Today I would like to take an opportunity to discuss a high yield investment with you. But let's discuss for all intents and purposes what the investment looks like through the lens of a tool and die company. ACME Company has accepted a bid to manufacture a ratchet. ACME understands tooling with the ability to deliver high quality, defect free instrumental tools to the market. The toolmakers need to spend endless hours on research & development, designing, creating and building this ratchet. In order to make your investment worthwhile, you want to make sure you have the BEST machinist. To get the best you need to pay for top qualified professionals, to operate the machinery to create these parts for a solid ratchet. These top qualified employees take the time to build this ratchet with passion and pride. ACME sends out the finished precision product to the manufactures in Ohio with the hopes of an average or above average ROI, which according to Forbes is 7% or higher with minimal risk. ACME banks on this because they would like to continue to manufacture the ratchet. Let's say the ratchet has a ROI of 13%, good investment, good product! ACME decides focusing and prioritizing on this product is a good idea. As any good business would do...having its own R &D, design group and manufacturing department... Who do you call to help you with this, your INVESTORS...? Who wouldn't want to invest in a company that has the ability to bring a precision tool to the market so rest of manufacturing Ohio can profit.

Let's come back to the 13% of ROI with minimal risk. This calculation comes from Research Professor James Heckman. Why is there an above average yield on this investment? It has been proven time and time again that "high quality care leads to many positive outcomes in life, including increased educational attainment, healthier lifestyles and more successful careers." (NAECY 2019) The characteristics of high quality programs are Learning and Development, Administrative and Leadership practices, Staff Education and Qualifications, also Family and Community Partnerships. (SUTQ)

Let's come back to the 13% of ROI with minimal risk. This percentage is actually the ROI of 95,000 PFCC children from birth to 5 in a high quality program setting. Let's talk more numbers... There are approximately 7619 businesses/programs that employ... Owners, Administrators, teachers, teacher assistants and others. This makes up 73,162 (less private centers) people working in Ohio's communities investing in our children. Can we take it a step further and talk about passive ROI.... these children come to high quality centers daily so the families can go to their jobs in their community in Ohio. Passive ROI is families working, businesses growing, communities growing, and Ohio's economy growing. Win Win

Not so fast,

"This week GROUNDWORKS Ohio released [new poll data](#) showing how investment in quality child care and early childhood education is vital to addressing workforce challenges and increasing economic productivity, and would pay long-term dividends for the state. A few of the key data points:

- More than two-thirds of non-working or part-time working Ohio moms (68%) say they would go back to work if their child had access to high quality and affordable child care.
- Nearly four-in-10 working parents (38%) say they have had to miss work, leave early or lose focus because of challenges with child care.
- Almost one-third of working parents (32%) say they have lost more than five days of work in the past two years because of a lack of child care.
- Four-in-10 working parents (40%) have cut back on their work hours to care for their children.”

Will these factor change what the ROI looks like? As a stakeholder, a small business owner offering a high quality birth to 5 educational program, the workforce behind the workforce I am asking you the Investors, the budget makers to prioritize the investments in our children, families and economy.

Thank you for your time and we welcome any questions you may have.