



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 5302
Committee on Children
March 3, 2016

Chairwomen Bartolomeo and Urban, Ranking Members Kokoruda and Martin and Members of the Committee on Children, the House Republican Caucus would like to thank the Committee for raising **House Bill Number 5302: An Act Concerning a Tax Credit for Employers Offering On-Site Child Care.**

This bill is an important House Republican proposal to establish a tax credit for employers who offer childcare on-site. The amount of the credit would be five hundred dollars per month for each child enrolled in the child care center and no credit would be allowed if it would exceed the amount of tax imposed.

Families are struggling to balance the very important needs of finding quality affordable child care and continuing their employment status. In 2012, the average cost for full-time child care in Connecticut was \$11,462. This represents 17% of the median household income for the state, nearly double the percentage of income dedicated to child care that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends. A family's inability to afford child care can cause a chain reaction that is felt not just throughout the family, but the entire state economy as well. When one spouse is forced to alter or end employment outright, it puts an economic strain on the other spouse to produce enough for the entire family. Additionally, the spouse forced to end employment loses valuable experience in the time away from their trade or craft and the employer suffers from the loss of economic output and the costs of having to train a replacement.

House Bill 5302 would assist our state's families by encouraging employers to create on-site child care options. Employers establishing on-site child care would create a dual benefit of keeping our families working and our children safe. In return, employers profit from generating additional economic output and reducing training costs long term.

I urge the Committee on Children to pass House Bill Number 5302 to establish a tax credit for employers who offer childcare on-site. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to pass legislation lowering the cost of childcare for our state's families.