



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 428		DATE: 1/31/2023
COMMITTEE: Children and Families		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ALYSSA SLOAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ansloan15@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:13 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a in home license daycare i have a child of my own and plan to have more in the near future. I don't feel that my own children should count against me in my numbers. I fell that most people that start in home child care is to be home with their kids and with them counting in your numbers it takes away our income.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY GAMM		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: nagamm13@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 3:07 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

It is my belief that child care providers should be able to keep their own grandchildren without having to include them in their maximum number of children. This affects families because as they grow, often times there is not room for additional children to be accepted. This is my current situation. Due to my provider having a new grandchild, if I would have another child, that child could not go to daycare with my other child or at a home that I trust because she is unable to accept any more children. I also feel that with the cost of living, it is important for providers to be able to fill all spots by children outside of the family so that their income is substantial enough to be able to live. With this passing, it does not create a fall of expenses to others such as myself having to pay more monthly to accommodate a standard cost of living for the provider. If that would be the issue, then my expenses rise causing stress to not only the child care provider who has to fear losing good families but my family as well. It is important to the working parents that this pass so that our children continue to get the safe care they need.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DANA PORTWOOD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mdportwood18@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2023 12:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a huge supporter of this bill, so our childcare providers do not have to count their related children in care against their numbers. Great childcare is hard to come by and requiring our childcare facilities to count their related children just hurts the rest of us who is in dire need of childcare.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA CHISAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: chisamjon@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2023 3:01 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm a licensed child care provider that is in support of related not being counted against our capacity numbers. As a licensed provider, we are required to be monitored, have all required paperwork and follow all rules of the state. I can speak for many providers that when this law changed, it put a lot of us in a bind to care for related children plus our current capacity. If this was brought back for licensed providers, it would help some of the child care shortage by allowing some openings for children that might be in unlicensed home or somewhere they aren't happy with. I get numerous calls and emails looking for openings and unfortunately I'm full. By opening up related not counting against capacity it would help families get spots in a licensed home. It won't completely fix the shortage of daycare openings for children but it would definitely help and every little bit matters. The calls and messages I get regarding children in unlicensed care is devastating, countless number of kids, deaths, injuries and just not proper care. These are all unlicensed providers in my area and not monitored by state or required to follow rules, unless caught. I know for myself, I would have 2 openings for new families to enroll in my licensed home daycare. I know many providers that it would be the same. Unlicensed daycares were the reason for the previous change on related counting against our capacity, not licensed providers. Licensed providers were penalized as a result of unlicensed not providing proper care to children. I just hope that this is considered and know that licensed providers take true pride in their daycare and children and follow all rules.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOYCE LUEBRECHT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KRISTY OBERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kgehringer1@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:32 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I do not think that a child care operators own children should count as filled spots when running a licensed in home daycare. My child currently goes to Alyssa Sloan and I am pregnant with my 2nd child. My 2nd Child will not be able to go to the same daycare as his sister because Alyssa child counts as an infant spot. This is causing Alyssa to lose out on money because she is not getting paid for her child so she should be be considered an occupied spot.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARK OBERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: markobie@outlook.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 9:36 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I do not think that a child care operators own children should count as filled spots when running a licensed in home daycare. My child currently goes to Alyssa Sloan and my wife is pregnant with our 2nd child. My 2nd Child will not be able to go to the same daycare as his sister because Alyssa child counts as an infant spot. This is causing Alyssa to lose out on money because she is not getting paid for her child so she should be be considered an occupied spot.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NICHOLE ORF		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: nichilynn@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2023 8:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Good Morning. I am submitting a letter on a personal level as well as a professional level in support of HB 428. I personally have experienced the extreme difficulty it is to find licensed daycare for my children. The amount of stress this puts on a family in this state is unimaginable unless you are in the situation. Trying to secure daycare has been in the utmost stressful part of being a new mother that I had no idea I would encounter. The regulations, I understand are put in place for protection, but these regulations are done in a reactive fashion instead of the proactive fashion. I professionally, am a Field Support Manager for the Department of Social Services- Children's Division and the lack of available daycare makes the most vulnerable children in the state in a very peculiar situation. This is due to the overextended regulations and limitations on numbers. We often find ourselves in the situations of not being able to find relatives or foster homes for young children due to no available licensed daycare. Missouri citizens are having to choose to take care of the children in their families that need them the most or their careers. I have watched countless grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings have to send the children away when they are brought into protective custody, sometimes across the state to strangers, because there is no available daycare.. Missouri has the ability to adequately regulate childcare and investigate those that are of a concern. Instead of more restrictive rules and regulations, let those agencies work with the providers and address the concerns, and not tie up the providers in red tape. Reactions to concerns and tragedies with extreme limitations by government only creates bigger problems, which Missouri has now done. Revisit these regulations, make adjustments and allow licensed, safe, and willing providers to work to their full capacity. Wouldn't we all rather the children be in safe, regulated daycares that have the capacity to meet their needs, than be left with unlicensed providers that no one checks on? Let's work to help solve this problem to ensure our future is cared for well in safe environments.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL GURITZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rachelguritz@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2023 3:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am in support of this bill. As a former licensed daycare provider, I believe this will benefit children and licensed daycare providers alike in our community and throughout Missouri. There is a huge shortage of quality, licensed daycare providers in our area. Allowing providers to care for relative children in addition to others will provide our community with quality providers for more children. When relative children are counted in the numbers, that means that other children in our community must do without quality care.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 11:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I Do not Support this Bill. This Legislation is Unreasonable and a "Pie in The Sky" Proposed Legislation. Two (2) Related Children are already Exempt by State Law. All other related children shall play into account in the calculation & equation of a safe environment to take into account Square Footage, Space, Restrooms as major factors and limitations. This is unreasonable and goes against the Intent of "Nathan's State Law" passed by the Legislature. This is unreasonable and NOT smart Public Policy! Child Safety of our little ones MUST be the Top Priority of this Committee and the House of Representatives as a whole! Related Children shall be limited Children of the 1st-Degree.You MUST Balance Hardships with Child Safety.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CORINNE PATTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: pattoncb@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 2:25 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I offer this testimony in opposition to HB 428 and HB 913. My name is Corinne Patton and I am retired from active employment. I maintain a keen interest in legislation that impacts young children because I spent all my active professional career advocating for those children. For 25 years I worked for the Departments of Social Services and Health and Senior Services regulating child care facilities. After I left state employment, I worked for the nonprofit agency now known as Child Care Aware of Missouri. That agency helps families find child care and works with child care providers to assist them in improving their services. I have had the opportunity to visit child care centers and family child care homes in all parts of our state. I have seen children receiving excellent care and I have seen children who were left to supervise themselves because the provider had too many children to look after. I have investigated terrible accidents when children did not receive proper care and supervision. The current statute permits a small number of older related children to not be counted in the maximum capacity. This provision should remain unchanged. It is practical and reasonable and considers the needs of both the provider and the children in care. Children related to the child care provider take up as much space as non-related children. They have the same need for the provider's time, care and attention. They need materials to play with and guidance in playing with other children. They will be just as hungry, restless, sleepy and happy as the others. They should have the same opportunity to learn and grow. They "count" just as much as non-related children. I do not understand the motivation for giving such leeway to related children. Are they receiving some special treatment or are they being put at risk of harm? Who is benefitting from this proposed change? Neither the children in care nor their parents will benefit. We as citizens are not doing children any favors by permitting related children to be excluded from the maximum capacity of child care. We are increasing the risk for all children. I do not believe this proposed change is in the best interest of Missouri's youngest residents. Please vote against the proposed legislation in HB 428 and HB 913. Thank you for your attention to this testimony.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHY QUICK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Kathykquick@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2023 6:37 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a former section administrator for Child Care Regulation the very worst part of the job was talking to parents who had lost children while in child care. I believe this bill will put children in harms way. Your job as an elected official is to do all you can to protect Missouri's vulnerable. This legislation will NOT do this. I strongly encourage you to not vote this bill out of committee. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2023 12:25 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

If limits on the maximum number of children under care in a child care facility are made, there is no reason that children related to the provider should be excluded. These children still need to be cared for, regardless of the their relation to the provider. It makes no sense to exclude them from the limit. This bill should be opposed.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/29/2023 12:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

If limits on the maximum number of children under care in a child care facility are made, there is no reason that children related to the provider should be excluded. These children still need to be cared for, regardless of the their relation to the provider. It makes no sense to exclude them from the limit. This bill should be opposed.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBIN PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-754-1605	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CHILD CARE AWARE OF MISSOURI		TITLE: CEO	
ADDRESS: 955 EXECUTIVE PARKWAY DRIVE, SUITE 106			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: robin@mochildcareaware.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/30/2023 10:51 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Dear Representative Kelly and Members of the Children and Families Committee, My name is Robin Phillips, and I am the CEO of Child Care Aware® of Missouri, a statewide nonprofit organization with a 23-year history of serving families with young children in need of child care, educating those families on child care health, safety, and quality indicators as well as supporting child care providers and educators across Missouri with training and professional development opportunities. Our organization plays an active role in improving the early childhood system in Missouri and across our country by sharing our knowledge of best practices in child care settings, emphasizing the importance of investing in the young years to gain a return on investment in our youth, the importance of investing in our current child care workforce and encouraging our state to address one of the core issues of the struggling child care system, which is wages of the child care workforce, and stressing the importance of safe and healthy child care environments including adult to child ratio. I have a 21-year background in child care systems building, the majority of that time in Missouri, advocating for safe, high-quality child care and early learning experiences for our youngest children. Unfortunately, in that time I have also worked with a handful of Missouri families whose infants died in child care because there were too many children in care with only one adult. Nathan Blecha was an infant from one of those families. His mother has submitted testimony against HB 428. I am here today testifying against HB 428 and 913. If passed into law, HB 428 and 913 would move Missouri backward in our efforts to address the safety of young children in child care because licensed family child care programs would be able to return to the practice of exempting related children, up to the third-degree, from their count, therefore increasing the adult to child ratio. You should know: Low child-to-adult ratios help ensure that young children get enough one-on-one attention from an adult who is available to take care of each child's unique needs. This responsive caregiving and relationship building are extremely important to a child's social and emotional development, physical well-being, and overall learning. Strong, secure relationships between babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their child care providers are important indicators of a quality care setting and support positive child development. This one-on-one attention helps children feel safe and secure and reduces feelings of being overwhelmed—for both children and adults. To prevent injuries and fatalities, babies and toddlers need physical environments in child care settings that are specifically prepared for their care and safety. Our state must support safe, high-quality early learning environments including community-based child care centers, group homes, and family child care homes. Having safe, high-quality child care for working families means babies and young children are learning amazing things through play like words, songs, self-help skills, social-emotional skills to help better express their feelings, science, and math. Working families can be present and productive at work therefore fewer instances of calling in sick, having to leave work early, or having to turn down a promotion. Missouri is losing significant tax revenue because working families, especially working

moms, cannot find child care. Increasing adult to child ratios to not the answer to the lack of child care availability. Our Governor and other Missouri leaders are making child care a priority investment this session. We must continue to move forward, not backward.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBYN SCHELP		PHONE NUMBER: 660-441-3260	
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 3909 SHERMAN CT.			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUE PORTING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: portingms@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/31/2023 12:02 AM
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I am opposed to this bill as it would allow a licensed child care provider to care for an unlimited number of children related to them within the 3rd degree. A child is a child, whether related to the provider or not. There are health and safety reasons that one adult should be limited to ten children, including a limit on the number of children who are under two years of age. Children, particularly infants and toddlers, depend on a caregiver to meet their basic needs. In addition, in the event of an emergency (ie a fire) the caregiver must be able to ensure all the children's safety. One adult cannot possibly be expected to safely evacuate an unlimited number of children. And finally, a caregiver's frustration level can rise with a greater number of children in care. This puts children at an increased risk of child abuse and/or neglect. Missouri already exceeds the number of children allowed per caregiver compared with our surrounding states. As a parent and grandparent, I cannot emphasize strongly enough my opposition to this bill. This bill would endanger our youngest and most vulnerable citizens and would take our state backwards.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2023 10:19 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Children have the need to be adequately supervised whether related to the child care provider or not.