



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1819		DATE: 3/3/2026	
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			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHELSEA KEMP		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 8:00 PM
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To whom it may concern,
 ?I am submitting this testimony as a single mother who works every day to provide a home and a future for my son. For parents like me, childcare isn't a luxury; it is a necessity. To go to work, I have to trust that my son is safe. I have to believe that when I walk away, the people I am paying will care for him with the same responsibility and heart that I do.
 ?The Gap in Accountability
 ?We live in a world where we prioritize the safety of "things" over the safety of our children.
 ?We put cameras in retail stores to ensure goods aren't stolen.
 ?We put cameras in government buildings to protect property and staff.
 ?Yet, in the very rooms where our most vulnerable children spend their day, we often have no eyes, no record, and no transparency.
 ?It is appalling that mandatory surveillance is not already the standard. We shouldn't have to wait for a tragedy or a news story about neglect to realize that we need accountability.
 ?The Need for Universal Training
 ?Responsibility requires more than just a title; it requires proper preparation. A daycare staff member must be equipped to care for all children—not just the "easy" ones.
 ?We need a system where every staff member is trained to handle children with diverse needs, different temperaments, and disabilities. A child who is "different" from what a staff member is "used to" is a child who is at a higher risk for neglect or misunderstanding. That is unacceptable.
 ?My Request for Change
 ?I am calling for the following common-sense measures:
 ?Mandatory Cameras: Transparency should be a requirement, not an option.
 ?Specialized Training: Staff must be trained on how to care for children with diverse physical, emotional, and developmental needs.
 ?Strict Accountability: There must be a clear sense of responsibility that matches the weight of the lives they are holding.
 ?When I drop my son off, I am handing over my entire world. I shouldn't have to wonder if the people behind that door are capable or if they are being watched. Our children deserve a standard of care that reflects how much we value them.
 ?Respectfully,
 ?A loving mother



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH GANTNER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 9:19 PM
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I would like to express that this law is in the very best interest of the children. I am in support of Conrad and his family. This will be a great legacy for Conrad.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMILY STOINSKI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 3:18 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER NOLL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER SMALLWOOD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 10:05 PM
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I Jennifer Smallwood wholeheartedly support Conrad's Law . Too many of our children are being harmed and murdered by those who we depend on to care and trust with while we are working . Conrad was unable to defend and voice himself with being non verbal . We need to be a voice for the voiceless. We need to have a better support system where are children are kept safe and Conrad's Law to help bring justice to those who harm our children. No parent should have to go through what Tara, Josh and their family has gone through. In honor of Conrad's memory and for the safety of the children may Conrad's Law be passed . Conrad and all children Matter. Thank you



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA BROTHERTON-BARNES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 5:16 PM	
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This legislation is critically important, and I sincerely pray it becomes law to prevent the future injury or death of other children in child care facilities.

Conrad Ashcraft is “forever three” because of the negligence and abuse inflicted upon him by a child care worker. His life was stolen in a way that should never happen to any child entrusted to the care of adults. What happened to him was not simply a tragedy — it was preventable.

As a news reporter covering this heartbreaking case and the court proceedings connected to his death, I have reviewed the details, the testimony, and the consequences. I am sickened by the circumstances that led to this unimaginable loss. No family should have to endure such pain, and no community should have to grapple with a preventable child death.

Legislation that strengthens oversight, accountability, and child safety standards in Missouri’s child care facilities is not political — it is moral. It is about protecting children who cannot protect themselves.

Please honor Conrad’s memory. Enact meaningful reforms so that no other child becomes “forever” the age they were when negligence took their life.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA DON BOLLINGER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 8:01 PM
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I think Conrad's law should be passed. This sweet innocent little boy was taken away from his loved ones way too soon. He should have been taken care of properly by the day care staff. His family took him there that day and never got to see him alive again. Conrad's family deserves justice and by passing Conrad's law that would be the first step towards justice for this sweet little boy and his family. No family should ever have to endure what they have endured.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NICOLE BREWER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 9:02 PM	

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This is very corrupt situation we have here Spring Grey is not getting in trouble because she is on Park Hills or was on it city council and she also worked in the court system in Farmington Mo were she apparently liked fucking the judge maybe the FBI or someone really needs to come here and find out why is it you can get by with Murder in these little towns if you know people and if you are black you may as well forget it down here this little boy needs Justice not it swept under the rug like what is going on here what if it was your special needs child bet someone would be all over it



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PRECIOUS JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 5:43 AM
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I am in full support of this bill. Keep our babies safe at all times. Thank you for this bill!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA HENSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 8:17 PM
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As a mother of 3 and a “MeMe” to 7 amazing children, I believe our local, state, and federal governments’ highest priority is to protect our most vulnerable. All children rely on us to keep them safe and children with special needs have an even greater need for our protection. In a society where more often than not both parents have to work, the need for safe, responsible childcare must be of primary concern of our lawmakers. Conrad’s Law must be passed to help prevent other children from the suffering Conrad and his family have endured. Please protect our kids. Sign this bill into law!



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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: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RUSTY PARKER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 5:59 AM

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Missouri's Conrad Law represents an important step toward strengthening child safety standards in daycare facilities across our state. By increasing accountability, improving oversight, and reinforcing reporting and compliance requirements, the law helps ensure that parents can trust licensed childcare providers with their children's well-being. Protecting children in early learning environments must remain a top priority, and Conrad Law sends a clear message that Missouri is committed to safer, more transparent daycare operations for families.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 11:53 AM	

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HB 1819 directs DESE to establish training and rules for nonrestrained safe sleep policies for children one year of age or older, including permitting weighted blanket use up to five pounds, and mandates individualized care plans for children with special needs requiring multi-party approval and annual review.

While child safety is a compelling state interest,¹ the bill presents implementation and constitutional concerns.

First, the bill authorizes weighted blanket use up to five pounds for children over one year of age without incorporating medical-standard cross-references or pediatric safety benchmarks. If state rulemaking authorizes practices inconsistent with prevailing medical guidance, licensed facilities may face negligence exposure and due process challenges where state authorization conflicts with accepted standards of care.²

Second, the required care plan mandates approval by the child’s primary care provider and facility staff. This structure may create access disparities if a family lacks consistent primary care access or if providers decline participation.

Differential treatment of children based on access to medical documentation raises potential equal protection concerns.³

Third, requiring training specific to each child’s special need without funding or staffing support imposes operational burdens on small licensed providers. Excessive regulatory conditions that materially burden entry into a lawful occupation may implicate substantive due process protections if not reasonably tailored to demonstrated safety needs.⁴

Legislative Notice: The General Assembly is placed on notice that HB 1819’s authorization of weighted blanket use in licensed child care facilities and its mandatory multi-party care plan requirements create foreseeable negligence, equal protection, and substantive due process challenges if state-approved practices conflict with prevailing medical standards or impose access burdens not narrowly tailored to child safety objectives.

Footnotes

Prince v. Massachusetts, 321 U.S. 158 (1944) (recognizing state’s compelling interest in protecting the welfare of children).

See *County of Sacramento v. Lewis*, 523 U.S. 833 (1998) (state action must comport with substantive due process standards when affecting life and safety interests); see also general negligence principles recognizing reliance on regulatory standards in duty-of-care analysis.

U.S. Const. amend. XIV; *City of Cleburne v. Cleburne Living Center*, 473 U.S. 432 (1985) (equal protection analysis where differential treatment affects protected classes or access).

Nebbia v. New York, 291 U.S. 502 (1934) (economic regulation must bear a real and substantial relation to a legitimate governmental purpose).