

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Ways & Means
For HB 3621

Compiled on: Monday, April 10, 2023 10:58 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: April 10, 2023 10:00 AM

Kim Kofron
Children at Risk
Round Rock, TX

I am testifying For HB3621.

As a statewide organization we have the privilege of talking to providers all over the state and one thing is consistent no matter where you are—all child care programs are struggling to stay in business. We know that we have lost over 20% of child care providers since March 2020. We also know, according to a survey done by Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, that over 44% of child care programs are likely or maybe likely to close in the next year. Texas employers and workers cannot afford to lose more child care providers.

Child care providers are businesses and property taxes are a part of doing business in Texas. Currently, child care programs are not exempt from property taxes and many providers struggle to make ends meet. These costs are often passed directly on to working parents and in turn increase the costs of child care and reduce workforce participation as a result. Like many other Texans, child care providers have seen dramatic increases in property values and subsequent property values. Soaring property tax bills and inflation, combined with the Covid pandemic, have battered the Texas child care industry with hundreds of providers choosing to close their doors.

The passage of HB3621 will provide much needed property tax relief to child care providers across the state, allowing them to pass the savings on to parents by reducing their tuition and to their educators through retention and recruitment activities.

Sincerely,
Kim Kofron, M.Ed.
Senior Director of Education

Taylor Trevino
self - organizer
Austin, TX

I urge all Representatives to support this bill.

Jeanne Weisz, Mrs

Self

Frisco, TX

I am against this.

Kurt Hutson

Kids R Kids

Allen, TX

I am providing written testimony in support of this bill. The bill provides for property tax exemption for childcare providers who are nationally accredited. National Accreditations in the childcare industry push high quality. This bill would provide financial incentive for providers to meet those high standards and give them the confidence of knowing the funding would be available every year in the form of a foregone expense. It will absolutely push quality in childcare centers across the state.