

# State of Kansas

## Senate Chamber



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February 3, 2020

Thank you Chairman Suellentrop and members of Senate Public Health & Welfare for the opportunity to testify on SB312. SB312 amends current statutes to give KDHE more authority to deter illegal child care operations and increase the number of licensed and inspected child care facilities in Kansas. This is a measure to protect the health, safety and well-being of our most precious commodity – our children.

For the family of Charlie Mendenhall there is no tomorrow. Charlie died at the age of 7 weeks on his 2<sup>nd</sup> day in an unlicensed daycare home. After his death his mother discovered that this provider – who told them she was licensed – was not. If she had been licensed, she would have been cited for neglect on following seven regulations mandated by the state regarding infant safe sleep. This family has gone through unimaginable pain. They want to make sure that all Kansas providers are licensed. It ensures our children have safe and regulated environments, with well trained care givers, to grow and develop in when they cannot be at home.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I ask that the committee report SB312 out favorable for passage, and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Petthey".