



October 6, 2023

Office of U.S. Congressman Tracey Mann
 317 Houston Street, Ste. A
 Manhattan, KS 66502

Dear U.S. Congressman Tracey Mann,

On behalf of the Child Care Task Force of Ellis County and The Chamber in Hays, Kansas, we are pleased to provide this letter of support to enact change to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), which serves approximately 4.2 million children each day in child care homes and centers across the country. Local child care providers are currently facing significant financial barriers in offering care for our families due to recent changes that were introduced into the program this year.

As the CACFP program pricing is set for two-year periods, it is critically important that the rates reflect the needs of all child care providers, regardless of the facility in which they offer care or the socio-economic background of the families served. The below chart showcases the past cycle's rates as well as the 2023 – 2024 rates from family child care homes:

	2022 – 2023 Rates		2022-2023 Rates w/ Temporary KKFA Reimbursement		2023 – 2024 Rates	
	Tier I	Tier II	Tier I	Tier II	Tier I	Tier II
Breakfast	1.56	0.56	1.66	1.66	1.65	0.59
Lunch/Supper	2.94	1.78	3.04	3.04	3.12	1.88
Supplement	0.87	0.24	0.97	0.97	0.93	0.25

Pricing for centers and afterschool care for past and present can be seen below:

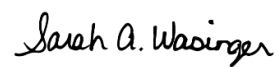
	2022 – 2023 Rates			2022-2023 Rates w/ Temporary KKFA Reimbursement			2023 – 2024 Rates		
	Paid	Reduced	Free	Paid	Reduced	Free	Paid	Reduced	Free
Breakfast	0.35	1.81	2.11	0.45	1.91	2.21	0.38	1.98	2.28
Lunch/Supper	0.37	3.53	3.93	0.47	3.63	4.03	0.40	3.85	4.25
Supplement	0.09	0.54	1.08	0.19	0.64	1.18	0.10	0.58	1.17

These reimbursement rates are insufficient to cover the continued rise of food costs, inflation, gas, and labor in time to shop for, prepare the meals, and complete the paperwork required through the CACFP.

Providers in Ellis County, Kansas are requesting the legislation reimburse at a single uniform rate with no tiers, regardless of the location. Food costs are the same for providers, regardless of where they live in Ellis County.

As of October 6, Ellis County Kansas' Point-in-Time data through ChildCare Aware of Kansas reflected 491 child care spots that still need to be opened to serve all our county's needs. Eliminating barriers for current and future child care providers is essential to addressing access to quality and affordable child care, not just in Ellis County, Kansas, but throughout the entire nation. Thank you for supporting our area's child care providers, who ultimately allow our workforce to continue in its mission to sustain rural Kansas.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah A. Wasinger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Wasinger
President/CEO – The Chamber in Hays, Kansas
Facilitator - Child Care Task Force of Ellis County