

Unfortunately, an opponent to HB 2356 has resorted to distributing false information about this bill. This bill will improve the safety and quality of child care in Kansas. Here are the facts that you need to know:

MYTH

THE FACTS ON HB 2356

A family finding an affordable quality provider could mean the difference between a family being self-reliant and being able to provide for their family, or giving up and going on the government dole.

Having access to affordable and safe child care is a critical issue for working families. HB 2356 will ensure the safety of more child care facilities in Kansas while not impacting the cost of child care, which will allow more families to find and keep employment.

Today, in Kansas, "family day care homes" are not required to be registered or licensed.

Today, in Kansas, all child care providers are required to be either registered or licensed. This bill would give providers the option to be either a "family day care home" or a "licensed day care home."

HB 2356 would require all child care providers to be licensed, including "family day care homes."

HB 2356 would require all providers to be **inspected**. While licensing is required for inspections, providers **would continue to operate just as they do now** as either a "family day care home" or a "licensed day care home." Note: this bill simply changes the name of "registered" homes to be known as "family day care homes."

To avoid licensing and all the numerous mandates with it, many family day care home providers could choose to close their doors.

HB 2356 simply adds inspections for all home-base child care providers and does not change the way those providers do business. Today, we already inspect most home-based child care providers. In Kansas, where there are very few mandates for child care providers, inspections would not deter anyone from becoming or remaining a provider.

HB 2356 reduces the licensed homes' maximum capacity from 10 children to 6 children.

This is blatantly false. HB 2356 does not address the issue of capacity in child care homes. Providers could continue to care for the same number of children as they can now.

Since HB 2356 would reduce the number of children a provider can care for, it would increase the cost of child care, because to meet expenses and stay in business, providers would need to charge more per child.

Since HB 2356 does **not** reduce the number of children a provider can care for, this bill would have no impact on the cost of child care in Kansas.

Since providers would be required to take fewer children, it would increase the number of children needing care and families looking for quality providers.

Since HB 2356 does **not** reduce the number of children a provider can care for, this bill would have no impact on the availability of child care in Kansas. However, it will increase the safety and quality of child care in Kansas, giving families better information and more peace of mind.

HB 2356 would be creating a situation where the state is limiting the supply of providers, and at the same time increasing the demand for providers. Costs will skyrocket.

Since HB 2356 does nothing to limit the supply of providers or the number of children providers may care for, HB 2356 will have no impact on the demand or cost of child care in Kansas.

From 2007-2009, over three years, there were 22 deaths in child care homes. In registered homes, there were 8 deaths, in licensed homes there were 7 deaths, in group homes there were 5 deaths, and in unlicensed and unregistered homes, there were 2 deaths.

Over the past three years, 30 Kansas children have died in child care settings, 22 of which were in the types of facilities mentioned. In addition to deaths, 72 Kansas children were seriously injured in child care settings last year alone.

It is not the state that can ensure high quality child care. It is parents - parents who are invested in the process of finding high-quality providers for their children.

It's actually two-fold with the state providing a certain level of oversight and parents having an obligation to research child care facilities prior to selecting one. It's the same process we use to ensure the quality of restaurants, gas pumps and hair salons in Kansas. HB 2356 will also make public information regarding child care facilities more accessible to parents so that they can gather the information they need to make the right decision for their own family.

This bill, as written, will greatly increase the cost of child care in the state of Kansas. The proposed law will do next-to-nothing to guarantee high-quality child care, and could financially destroy many families by taking away their ability to be self-sufficient without government assistance.

Again, this bill would have no impact on the cost of child care in Kansas. But, it will improve the safety of child care in Kansas and the ability of families to make more informed decisions about child care, which will only strengthen our workforce. When parents have access to safe and reliable child care, they are more likely to stay in the workforce and earning a paycheck; and they are less likely to have workday absences and distractions, which will increase workforce productivity.

(over)

THE FACTS ON HB 2356

MORE MYTHS REGARDING CHILD CARE RATIOS

Types of child care providers in Kansas:

- Registration - 6 (eliminated)
- Licensed - 10 (reduced to 6)
- Unregistered - unlimited unless complaint

This understanding of provider types and ratios is incorrect. The categories of child care in Kansas and the total number of children each type of provider can care for is as follows:

- **Registered** - 6 children
Though the name of this category will change under HB 2356 to “family day care homes,” these providers will continue to care for the same number of children.
- **Licensed** - 10 children
Licensed providers would continue to be able to care for 10 children.
- There is not a category of “unregistered” providers. There are providers operating illegally in every state, but this bill does not address those facilities.

HB 2356 does nothing to change the number of children that providers in Kansas can care for. Providers can — and will continue to be able to — care for the following numbers of children:

LICENSED PROVIDER CHILD CAPACITY

Maximum number of children under 18 months	Maximum number of children 18 months to kindergarten	Maximum number of children kindergarten to age 11	Total number of children	Changes under HB 2356
0	7	3	10	No changes
1	5	4	10	No changes
2	4	3	9	No changes
3	3	2	8	No changes

REGISTERED PROVIDER CHILD CAPACITY (TO BE KNOWN AS FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES)

Maximum number of children under 18 months	Maximum number of children over 18 months	Total number of children	Changes under HB 2356
3	3	6	No changes
2	4	6	No changes
1	5	6	No changes
0	6	6	No changes