

February 3, 2021

TO: Senator Ginny Burdick, Senator Brian Boquist, Senator Lynn Findley, Senator Chuck Riley, and Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner

From: Sean Garland, Sherwood City Councilor

RE: SB 299 – Relating to children’s service districts

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 299. I would like our State government to do all that it can to help fund the expansion of out-of-school-time programs (early learning, before and after-school childcare, enrichment programs, summer programs, nutrition, child abuse prevention, programs for foster children) and make them more affordable for low-income residents.

I support this bill for these reasons:

- Families and employers are struggling because of the lack of child care options as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill will be instrumental in getting Washington County residents back to work and keeping them employed.
- Low and middle-income families with childcare are struggling with the high cost. With fewer programs as a result of COVID-19, costs will only get higher. This bill will help these families.
- Kids who are at risk because of poverty and racial inequality need the proven benefits out-of-school-time programs provide to be successful in school and in life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Garland

Sherwood City Councilor