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To: House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

Re: HB 2842 – Mid-Valley Court and Community Care
Relating to childcare programs for people with governmental business; declaring
an emergency

Dear Chair Hartman, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Committee Members,

I write to you in support of HB 2842 and the request for funding to expand the Mid-Valley Court and Community Care program. Our primary law office is based in Marion County, where we've witnessed the positive impact of the Court and Community Care program at the Salem Family YMCA.

Mid-Valley Court and Community Care is a program that provides access to the justice system, primarily for vulnerable populations, low-income populations, and members of our community who do not always have the necessary support or access to resources. The justice system can be overwhelming for those navigating it, but Mid-Valley Court and Community Care works to break down crucial barriers, providing greater access and relief for our community within the legal system. It allows parents and caregivers to have a safe space for children while they conduct difficult, stressful business. It also provides a safe and fun environment for children.

Mid-Valley Court and Community Care is a critical program to both protect young children from trauma and provide a place for caregivers to have time to handle important, necessary business. I urge you to support the request for additional funding of the Mid-Valley Court and Community Care program.

Sincerely,

Alana J. Hawkins, Attorney

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