



March 11, 2026

Rep. Mike Clines
Vice Chair, House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
Member, House Families and Children Committee
702 Capital Avenue, Room 357C
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Representative Clines,

On behalf of the members of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, I am writing to express our support for **House Concurrent Resolution 108**, which establishes the **Early Childhood Education Governance and Outcomes Task Force**. The Prichard Committee is a strong proponent of an aligned and unified early care and education ecosystem. This resolution represents a timely and essential step toward strengthening Kentucky's early learning system and its alignment with K–12 education.

HCR 108 recognizes that early childhood education is foundational to school readiness, long-term academic success, workforce participation, and economic vitality. It appropriately highlights the critical impact of children's development prior to age three and the need for coherent governance structures that support educational continuity.

By directing a focused examination of governance alignment, data systems, accountability structures, and the effectiveness of current statutory and administrative frameworks, the resolution positions Kentucky to make informed, evidence-based decisions that will improve outcomes for children across the Commonwealth. The emphasis on evaluating early learning standards, kindergarten readiness indicators, and longitudinal data coordination—particularly in partnership with the Kentucky Center for Statistics—addresses long-standing gaps that currently limit our ability to track and respond to children's developmental trajectories.

We are especially encouraged by the resolution's commitment to avoid duplication of prior work and its clear focus on educational governance rather than regulatory or operational issues within childcare. This ensures that the task force will fill a needed gap in statewide strategy while building on, rather than repeating, existing efforts.

The proposed membership structure—which includes legislators, state agency leaders, early childhood educators, child development experts, and a parent representative—will bring the right expertise and perspectives to this work. The requirement for monthly meetings during the 2026 interim and the charge to submit recommendations by December 1, 2026, further underscores the seriousness and urgency of the effort.



Thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this resolution and for your commitment to ensuring that Kentucky's youngest learners receive the strong start they deserve. The Prichard Committee is pleased that you have sought the expertise of The Hunt Institute, a long-time collaboration partner of the Prichard Committee. We were also very pleased to hear the testimonies of Alabama and Connecticut architects of unified early childhood governance. We look forward to supporting the task force's work in any way we can.

Respectfully,

Brigitte Blom
President and CEO
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence