



July 2, 2026

The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst, Chair
The Honorable Lacey Hull, Vice Chair
Members of the Sunset Advisory Commission
P.O. Box 13066
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Comments on the Texas Workforce Commission Sunset Staff Report

Dear Chair Kolkhorst, Vice Chair Hull, and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of Employers for Childcare (E4C), thank you for your thoughtful review of the Texas Workforce Commission. E4C is a statewide, non-partisan coalition of over 80 employers and business organizations committed to expanding working families' access to affordable, quality childcare. You can learn more about our members and efforts at www.txrestaurant.org/e4c.

We appreciate Sunset staff's careful work and support many of their recommendations. While Texas has many capable and dedicated leaders administering childcare programs, the report accurately identifies many of the operational challenges that Texans face daily. Fragmented oversight, disconnected data systems, inconsistent implementation across local workforce development boards, and limited visibility into program performance all make it more difficult for working parents to access the early childhood education and care they need to participate in the workforce. They also make it more difficult for policymakers, employers, educators, and taxpayers to know whether the state's investments are achieving the outcomes Texans expect.

We commend the report for documenting these challenges and proposing meaningful operational improvements. Stronger oversight, better data systems, clearer performance measures, and greater transparency will strengthen the administration of Texas' childcare programs.

At the same time, the report highlights an important opportunity. **The Sunset staff report appropriately focuses on improving the operations of a single agency. Many of the challenges it identifies, however, are symptoms of a larger problem: Texas' childcare system is fragmented across multiple agencies, making it impossible for our state to measure and improve key outcomes.**

For employers, early childhood education and care is essential workforce infrastructure. When parents cannot find reliable care, businesses struggle to recruit and retain the talent they need to grow. Just as importantly, childcare is also one of Texas' earliest and most important education investments. For Texas to continue to attract new employers and lead the nation in

economic growth, our early education investments must deliver strong returns for the workforce Texas need in the future.

That is why accountability must evolve beyond measuring compliance with siloed program goals and, instead, measure whether the system as a whole is optimizing outcomes for children, families, employers, and taxpayers. Are more parents able to participate in the workforce? Are children arriving at kindergarten better prepared to succeed? Are public investments producing measurable returns for Texas' economy? These are the questions that we cannot answer today that we can answer with better data and systems alignment.

The Legislature recognized this opportunity during the 89th Legislative Session when you created the Governor's Task Force on the Governance of Early Childhood Education and Care (HB 117). As directed by HB 117, the Task Force is meeting regularly this interim to bring recommendations to the Legislature to create a more coordinated, accountable, and effective early childhood education and care system.

These efforts are complementary with the Sunset review process. The Sunset staff report provides an important roadmap for improving operations within specific programs. The Task Force, in turn, is charged with examining the broader systemic questions that cannot—and should not—be resolved through a Sunset review of a single agency.

We respectfully encourage the Commission to adopt programmatic improvements, as recommended by Sunset staff and other stakeholders. We likewise encourage the Legislature to carefully consider the Task Force's recommendations as it evaluates how programmatic reforms can complement systemic reforms that, together, strengthen outcomes for children, families, employers, and taxpayers.

E4C appreciates the Commission's leadership and the opportunity to provide comments on the TWC's Sunset review. By pairing the operational improvements identified by Sunset staff with the systemic reforms being considered through the Governor's Task Force, Texas has an opportunity to build a system that is more coordinated, more transparent, more accountable, and better equipped to sustain Texas' competitiveness.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kelsey Streufert".

Kelsey Erickson Streufert, submitted on behalf of Employers for Childcare (E4C)
Chief Public Affairs Officer of the Texas Restaurant Association and Co-Founder of E4C