

Taylor Furnas Remarks | Proclamation Signing | May 5, 2026

Hello, my name is Taylor Furnas, and I am a child care provider in Syracuse, NE. I am the owner of Taylor's Tiny Friends, and I have been a child care provider for 6 years.

We are here today, in the state Capitol, to celebrate Provider Appreciation Day!

Thank you to Governor Pillen, Senators, the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative, and everyone who supports Nebraska's child care providers.

Child care providers are the backbone of the workforce.

As caregivers, we pour so much of ourselves into nurturing others. We comfort children when they are scared, celebrate their milestones, and create safe, reliable places for them to learn and grow.

We also make it possible for working families to thrive. Because parents know their children are safe and cared for, they can go to work, attend school, keep their jobs, and provide for their families with peace of mind.

When families cannot find child care, it impacts us all. A recent report from First Five Nebraska and the Nebraska Chamber states that inadequate access to child care in Nebraska costs the state approximately \$1.74 billion every year in lost business output, and nearly 7,000 fewer jobs.

This is why the passage of LB 304 in April means so much. For those of us doing this work every day, it's more than a policy. It shows that Nebraska's leaders see us and understand the critical role child care plays in our communities and our economy. By maintaining child care assistance for working parents, LB 304 helps families access the care they need so parents can work and support their families. The bill passed with very strong support from the Legislature and thank you, Governor Pillen, for signing the bill and showing a commitment to Nebraska's working families.

By proclaiming May 8th as Provider Appreciation Day, Governor Pillen is sending a clear message to providers across Nebraska: **You are valued, you are essential, and you matter.**

To my fellow providers, thank you for the love, patience, and dedication you give every day.

Together, we're building a Nebraska where every child can thrive, every family can succeed, and every child care business is sustainable.

Because in our state, child care is everyone's business. Thank you!