

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Office Address:
Capitol Annex
Frankfort KY 40601

Telephone:
(502) 564-8100

May 12, 2021

Via hand delivery

The Honorable Andrew Beshear
Governor, Commonwealth of Kentucky
700 Capital Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

We request that your administration reconsider the position taken by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in contract negotiations with Sunrise Children's Services. Specifically, we ask that you continue the longstanding practice of offering an accommodation that would allow for the exercise of Sunrise's religious rights.

Without this accommodation, the Cabinet is in danger of not only violating the fundamental right of religious liberty, but also language approved as part of this year's Executive Branch Budget, HB 192. As you know, HB 192 was amended in free conference committee to include the following provision: "*Children's Services Contractors: Notwithstanding KRS Chapter 45A, no contracts awarded for the use and benefit of the Department for Community Based Services shall interfere with the contractor's freedom of religion as set forth in KRS 446.350. Any such contracts shall contain a provision allowing a contractor to allow a substitute contractor who is also licensed or approved by the Cabinet to deliver the contracted services if the contractor cannot perform a contracted service because of religiously held beliefs as outlined in KRS 446.350.*"

This language is unequivocally clear and ensures that the state cannot discriminate against a provider because of that organization's religious convictions. Sunrise Children's Services is a proven partner in our state's efforts to improve the quality of life for Kentucky children. Sunrise dates back to 1859 and has partnered with the state since the late 1970s. To end this relationship

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May 7, 2021
Sunrise Children's Services

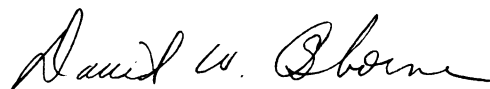
risks the well-being of thousands of children and adults who would directly benefit from quality care, particularly since the state has no obvious plan for the placement of the 600 children currently under the care of Sunrise.

Again, we ask that your administration take the necessary steps to continue this partnership.

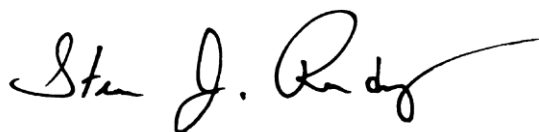
Sincerely,



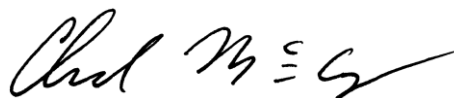
Rep. David Meade
House Speaker Pro Tem
80th District



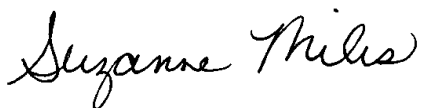
Rep David Osborne
Speaker of the House
59th District



Rep. Steven Rudy
House Majority Floor Leader
1st District



Rep. Chad McCoy
House Majority Whip
50th District



Rep. Suzanne Miles
House Majority Caucus Chair
7th District



Rep. Kim King
55th District



Rep. Philip Pratt
62nd District



Rep. Randy Bridges
3rd District



Rep. Norma Kirk-McCormick
93rd District



Rep. John Blanton
92nd District



Rep. Michael Lee Meredith
19th District



Rep. Savannah Maddox
61st District



Rep. DJ Johnson
13th District



Rep. Russell Webber
26th District



Rep. Dan Fister
56th District



Rep. Thomas Huff
49th District



Rep. Mary Beth Imes
5th District



Rep. Jason Petrie
16th District



Rep. Patrick Flannery
96th District



Rep. Bart Rowland
21st District



Rep. Chris Freeland
6th District



Rep. Shawn McPherson
22nd District




Rep. Steve Sheldon
17th District



Rep. Myron Dossett
9th District



Rep. Nancy Tate
27th District



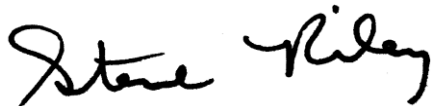
Rep. Bobby McCool
97th District



Rep. Deanna Frazier
81st District



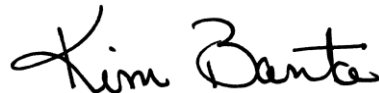
Rep. Jim DuPlessis
25th District



Rep. Steve Riley
23rd District



Rep. Richard Heath
2nd District



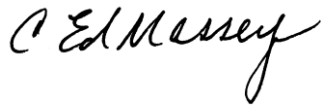
Rep. Kim Banta
63rd District



Rep. Ryan Dotson
73rd District



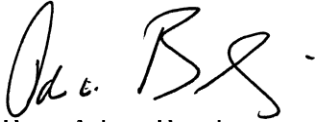
Rep. Felicia Rabourn
47th District



Rep. C. Ed Massey
66th District



Rep. John "Bam" Carney
51st District



Rep. Adam Bowling
87th District



Rep. Josh Bray
71st District



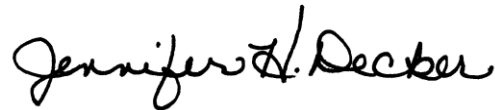
Rep. Danny Bentley
98th District



Rep. Kevin Bratcher
29th District



Rep. Chris Fugate
84th District



Rep. Jennifer Henson Decker
58th District



Rep. Ken Fleming
48th District



Rep. Scott Sharp
100th District



Rep. Kimberly Moser
64th District



Rep. Regina Huff
82nd District



Rep. Josh Calloway
10th District



Rep. Scott Lewis
14th District



Rep. David Hale
74th District



Rep. Melinda Gibbons Prunty
15th District



Rep. Matt Koch
72nd District



Rep. Derek Lewis
90th District



Rep. Sal Santoro
60th District



Rep. Ken Upchurch
52nd District



Rep. Joseph Fischer
68th District



Rep. Brandon Reed
24th District



Rep. Jonathan Dixon
11th District



Rep. Mark Allen Hart
78th District



Rep. Richard White
99th District



Rep. Lynn Bechler
4th District



Rep. Daniel Elliott
54th District




Rep. Robert Goforth
89th District



Rep. Shane Baker
85th District



Rep. Jim Gooch
12th District



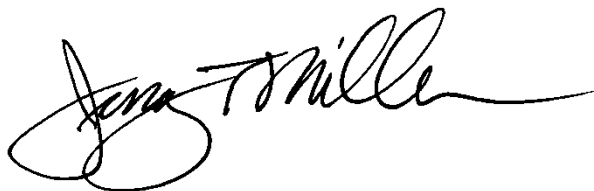
Rep. Bill Wesley
91st District



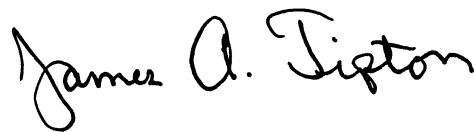
Rep. Matt Lockett
39th District



Rep. Tom O'Dell Smith
86th District



Rep. Jerry T. Miller
36th District



Rep. James Tipton
53rd District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walker Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rep. Walker Thomas
8th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Branscum". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Rep. Josh Branscum
83rd District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Lawrence". The signature is cursive and somewhat legible, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rep. William Lawrence
70th District