



## Alecia Patrick | Kansas



### Alecia's story

In April 2009, Alecia Patrick tragically lost her daughter Ava while she was being cared for at a family child care home. Ava fell in between the slats of a fence in the basement of the provider's home. The provider was taken to court, found guilty, and served a full prison term for her negligence.

Spurred by the loss of her child, Alecia started to advocate at the state level to improve child care oversight in Kansas. Child care oversight legislation was eventually passed in Kansas, due in part to Alecia's advocacy. Now she has a second daughter and is struggling with the rising cost of child care. She is also concerned with inconsistent professional development requirements for child care providers in Kansas and across the nation. She is seeking more adequate funding to help mothers like herself who need more affordable child care options, and also to provide better training for child care professionals to improve the quality and safety of child care for *all* children in Kansas.

**Child Care Stats in KS**  
**The cost of infant care in Kansas is more than \$3,000 more than the annual cost of tuition at a four year college.**

**U.S. businesses lose approximately \$4.4 billion annually due to employee absenteeism as the result of child care breakdowns.**

**There are 156,979 children under the age of 6 in Kansas who could be in need of child care.**

### Congressional Request: 2017

CCAoA is requesting a \$1.4 billion increase (over the FY 2016 level) for next year to ensure that nearly 217,000 children and families don't lose access to care, and also to help states meet the requirements of the 2014 CCDBG law.

We ask that you co-sponsor the "Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act of 2017" (H.R. 947/S.337), which would:

- Provide up to 12 weeks of leave for working families
- Enable workers to earn up to 66% of their monthly income while on leave
- Cover workers in all companies, no matter size
- Be administered through the newly created Office of Paid Family and Medical Leave

We also ask that you co-sponsor the "Promoting Affordable Childcare for Everyone (PACE) Act of 2017," which would expand and enhance the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) to reflect the realities of modern-day child care costs. The PACE Act would make CDCTC refundable and increase the credit rate, which would greatly benefit millions of working families struggling to pay their monthly bills as child care is the greatest expense after housing.