



Ali & Derek Dodd | Oklahoma



Photo courtesy of Sherri Glen photography

Ali and Derek's story

Derek and Ali Dodd are the parents of son Presley, 6, daughter Esme, 6 months, and son Shepard, who would be 2 years old. On April 6, 2015, just hours after dropping off her 11-week-old son Shepard at a licensed in-home child care program, Ali received a frantic call from the woman who ran the program. Shepard wasn't breathing and EMTs were performing CPR. Shepard was unbuckled in a newborn bucket car seat for two hours without any supervision. While Shepard was sleeping, his head went into a chin-to-chest position, and without the muscle strength to lift his neck, he suffocated. Shepard's official cause of death was positional asphyxiation. The Dodds later learned that their child provider had recently been cited by the Department of Human Services for unsafe sleep practices.

They are championing safe sleep practices in child care as well as paid family leave laws in Oklahoma and around the country - the Dodds want to prevent similar tragedies in child care settings, and save other families from heartbreak.

Child Care Stats in OK
The cost of center care for 2 children in Oklahoma is nearly \$4,000 higher than the annual cost of college 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 185,574 children under the age of 6 in Oklahoma 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.