



## Amber Angel | California



### Amber's story

As the youngest of eight children, Amber was the first in her family to attend college. She started school with her 2-year-old daughter in tow, and was able to send her to the campus child care facility. During Amber's last year of school she became pregnant with her youngest child. With no child care options for her newborn, she returned to class only 13 days after giving birth. Eventually she found the local Family Resource Center that helped her gain access to family child care and allowed her to finish school.

Amber's experiences pushed her to become a champion for children and families. For the past four years she has been a member of the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and has served on multiple education committees providing policy recommendations to the new administration. She strongly advocates for access to child care and infant care on college campuses, and for increased funding to support quality early childhood education programs in those settings.

**Child Care Stats in CA**  
**The cost of center care for 2 children in California is more than twice 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 1,751,677 children under the age of 6 in California who could be in need of child care.**

### Congressional Request: 2017

CCAAoA 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.