



Amber Jones | Arizona



Amber's story

Amber Jones is an Early Education Consultant and mother of two young children, ages two and five years old. Her family moved to Tucson, Arizona in December of 2006. Her and her husband Travis are actively involved in community-based organizations that focus on children and families. As an advocate, she has spent the last fourteen years working in the early childhood education field with a focus on infants and toddlers. Amber has served on the local and state National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) boards. She often works with teachers and speaks at local events on the need for quality programs for *all* children. She is a champion for paid maternity and paternity leave for all families.

Through her time in the early childhood education field, Amber has been committed to helping families like hers that struggle to afford child care. She understands first-hand how child care can place a financial strain on a family, even when they have two incomes. Amber and her husband feel strongly that early childhood education and child care are issues don't just affect families, but also the economy. She is advocating for high-quality child care for infants and toddlers across the country.

Child Care Stats in AZ

The cost of child care for two children in Arizona is almost 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.

Child care workers in Arizona make an annual average of \$21,320 (that's \$1,000 below the national average!)

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.