



## Amy Roark | Washington



### Amy's story

Amy Roark was a young mother who faced intermittent homelessness, hunger, and mental health issues. Her son had special educational needs but she had trouble finding help for him. Eventually, she found a helpful educator and her son received a diagnosis, which allowed her to receive an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Having her youngest child in a stable and supportive environment helped her hold down a job after years of struggling to find care for her unusual hours and long commutes. Amy was even able to start volunteering! She wanted to give back to the program that all three of her children attended so she became a parent advocate with the Educational Opportunities for Children and Families (EOCF) Policy Council where she shares her story with legislators in Olympia. Now Amy advocates not only for her own children, but for other families as well – talking about the programs that helped her get back on her feet. She is very grateful for these programs and hopes with sufficient funding that others will have similar opportunities.

**Child Care Stats in WA**  
**The cost of center care for 2 children in Washington 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 306,651 children under the age of 6 in Washington 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.