



Bianca Ramirez | Texas



Bianca's story

Bianca Ramirez was in her senior year of college when she learned she was pregnant. Bianca worried about how she would complete school and care for a newborn. She had few resources and no ability to pay for child care. Bianca's fears were soon realized upon the birth of her son Isaiah, when the young family became homeless. Luckily, Bianca and Isaiah were taken in by a local Christian homeless shelter in San Antonio. The staff provided Bianca with resources and access to subsidized child care assistance for Isaiah. The support enabled her to work and complete her degree. Next, Bianca secured full-time employment, stable housing, and returned to school. Today Bianca is a Licensed Master Social Worker. Bianca notes that she wouldn't have been able to accomplish all this without subsidized child care.

Despite her advanced degree, Bianca still struggles to find quality and affordable child care. Isaiah was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and Bianca has been turned away by child care providers, many of whom lack the training to work with children like Isaiah. Bianca advocates for increased training requirements and higher wages for child care providers. This will help skilled child care providers support families of children with special needs.

Child Care Stats in TX
The cost of center care for 2 children in Texas 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.

There are 1,342,054 children under the age of 6 in Texas 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.