



## Brian Albrecht & Elizabeth Fiato | Louisiana



### Brian and Elizabeth's story

Brian and his wife Elizabeth Fiato are foster parents to four-year old Kayden. Finding child care for Kayden has been difficult due to a lack of licensed child care facilities in their area. Brian and Elizabeth are new to child care advocacy and joined the movement because of Kayden. In the state of Louisiana, the couple were able to find a facility that met accreditation standards; however, since it was a religious institution it was not licensed due to the religious institution exemption. Other licensed child care facilities in the area did not have the availability or would not work with children using state benefits because of the state pay rate (\$2.18 per hour). In order to avoid sending Kayden to another home for placement, the couple paid for his child care without assistance. Unfortunately, Kayden was not able to stay in the care of Brian and Elizabeth after being removed from two pre-schools because of behavioral issues. They believe that although there is a lot of work to do for children in the foster system, specifically for children with mental and emotional issues, they must continue to advocate for Kayden and children like him.

Brian and Elizabeth want to help change the laws that prevent families using state child care assistance benefits from accessing safe and affordable child care facilities. In addition, the religious exemption law allows religious or nonprofit institutions to deny certain children. Brian and Elizabeth believe this is unjust because these facilities utilize state and federal funds for child care operations.

### 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.

**Child Care Stats in LA**  
**The cost of care for 2 children in center care and home-based is more than 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 234,792 children under the age of 6 in Louisiana who could be in need of child care.**