



Christinna Clinton | Washington



Christinna's story

Christinna Clinton knows first-hand the value of subsidy-based child care programs and what it means to see those programs disappear. She is currently a para-educator that helps with children who suffer from trauma, and is also working to finish school and become a teacher. When her daughter Allyvia was born, her state began cutting programs that met the basic needs of families. As a single mother who recently escaped domestic violence, these cuts to state-funded child care prevented Christinna from entering the workforce. She was living on \$300 a month and subsidized her income by substitute teaching while friends offered to care for her child. When her daughter was 10 months old, she found relief in Head Start. Through home visits with an Early Head Start home visitor, her daughter was placed in a classroom a year later. Thanks to government programs like Head Start, Christinna went back to school to become a teacher and re-learned her worth as a mother *and* as a teacher. In addition, Allyvia was ready and excited for kindergarten.

Christinna advocates for single mothers like herself, for parents working non-traditional hours, and for continued funding to federal and state child care programs to ensure every child has access to affordable, high-quality child care.

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

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.