



Daniela Salinas | Texas



Daniela's story

As a student trying to balance going to school while raising her son, Daniela Salinas struggled to find child care that was both affordable and accommodating to her busy schedule. Growing up with a single mother who worked long hours, she was determined to give her son a better life than she had. A month after her son was born she enrolled in classes to pursue a degree in business and psychology.

This single mother with no family support completely relied on child care to care for her son—sometimes from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Several times Daniela had to drop classes or completely change her schedule because of her son's child care. She has encountered teachers who understood her struggle and others who did not. Through all of this, she graduated with her bachelors in psychology and is currently pursuing her master's in social work, and has a happy and healthy 8-year-old son.

Daniela is an advocate for providing affordable child care options with flexible hours on college campuses and universities. She is developing this in her hometown at the University of Texas, San Antonio. She is also passionate about raising the wages of early childhood educators and reducing other barriers to single parents receiving an education.

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

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.