



Flavia Oliveira | Maine



Flavia's story

Flavia Oliveira is passionate about finding solutions for families experiencing poverty - starting with access to high-quality child care programs that engage the entire family. Early experiences, such as immigrating to the U.S. as a child, entering foster care, and becoming a mother at the age of seventeen, shaped her into the incredible advocate she is today.

Flavia has a disability that limits her physical ability to do many of the jobs available in her community. She credits her local Educare center with changing her family's lives. With their support, her children were not only safe, but thriving. Flavia is currently on track to obtain a college degree with a 3.85 GPA, which will open up more employment opportunities. Today, Flavia is asking lawmakers to increase funding to programs that eliminate financial barriers for working families in need of quality child care. She also wants to see greater access to quality child care programs and child care assistance. Recently, her oldest daughter told Flavia that she was proud of all the progress their family has made. Flavia hopes that with increased funding more parents will get to experience the benefits quality child care has given to her family.

Child Care Stats in ME
The cost of center care for 2 children in Maine is 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 49,214 children under the age of 6 in Maine 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.