



Gabriela Villagomez Morales | Washington



Gabriela's story

Gabriela Villagomez Morales is a single mother of four and has never been able to afford child care for her children. Instead, her mother watches the kids while Gabriela is at work. She struggles to make a better life for herself and her children. Still, she's caught in a bind. Gabriela makes too little to pay for out-of-home care, but too much to qualify for child care subsidies that would allow her to manage financially. When her children were younger, her two sons attended Head Start and her two daughters attended Early Head Start. This was their only interaction with the early education system. Currently, her children attend public school and Gabriela has become a parent ambassador at each school.

Gabriela believes that regardless of income, all families should be able to put their children in reliable, affordable, high-quality child care. Without that option, many families like Gabriela's may find it difficult to work a steady job or go back to school in order to make a better life for their children.

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

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.