



Julia Ruedas | California



Julia's story

As a parent advocate and child care provider herself, Julia Ruedas understands the struggles that families face. She works with low-income, majority Latino families in the Los Angeles area. Julia sees long wait lists for families with children who cannot afford child care on their own, which brings about two negative experiences – one is for the child, who does not have access to quality education during those early critical years of their life; the other is for the parent, who experiences the negative outcome of ineffective policies that promote instable child care.

Julia's advocacy work has also taken her to Sacramento to work with state lawmakers on improving policies that affect not only child care providers, but the working families and children who rely on them.

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 CA
The cost of center care for 2 children in California 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.

Child care workers in California make an annual average of \$26,050, just above poverty level for a family of 4.