



Karla Scapanski | Minnesota



Karla's story

Karla has been an early childhood educator and licensed child care provider for the past 15 years, and is also a substitute teacher. In the past, she worked in the prison system. Karla believes the best way to support children and ensure they are successful in life, is to invest more in early child care. But that won't happen without the work of advocates on the ground who can educate and assist lawmakers in allocating resources, including funding, to educators serving our earliest learners.

For the last five years Karla has been focused on improving the local early education and child care system by educating stakeholders who are ready to make needed investments – including parents, community members, and policymakers. She even ran for public office herself, with a platform focused on early education! Karla recently finished her degree in Early Childhood, and is in module three of her CDA for infants and toddlers. She will continue her advocacy efforts on behalf of children as she furthers her career.

Child Care Stats in MN
Married parents of 2 children living at the poverty line pay 131% of their income for center-based care.

U.S. businesses lose approximately \$4.4 billion annually due to employee absenteeism as the result of child care breakdowns.

Child care workers in Minnesota make an annual average of \$23,450, just above poverty level for a family of 4.

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.