



## Katherine Stevens | Minnesota



### Katherine's story

As an early childhood educator and care provider for 20 years, Katherine watched the number of licensed providers in her county drop from 213 to 104 – a 50% decrease. When she tried to help her daughter-in-law find child care for her granddaughter, Katherine discovered that the licensed facility in her county had zero open spaces and a two-year waiting list. That's when she knew she had to do something.

Katherine has taken it upon herself to act as a mentor and a source of support service for other providers in Minnesota. For early educators applying for relicensing, she helps with applying for grants, and with requirements: Rules 2 and 3. Katherine also fights on behalf of the many providers, who do not have internet access and therefore can't take required trainings online. Rather, they must travel to attend in-person trainings, usually in St. Paul, which can mean long days and late nights away from their centers.

Katherine works to help these centers through her advocacy work. Katherine now spends her time as a preschool director and acting as the go-to-person in Minnesota when a provider needs help.

**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

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.