



Kathleen Grohs | Nebraska



Kathleen's story

Kathy Grohs has a 5-year-old daughter who struggles with behavioral issues. Kathy has taken her daughter to a pediatrician and child psychologists in search of answers on how to best help her daughter succeed to her potential. Most of the time, her daughter is fine at home, but when put in child care all bets seem to be off. Kathy can pinpoint two possible reasons her daughter acts out when in child care: her early history, and the lack of training on behavioral issues and trauma. Kathy's daughter was placed with her at birth by foster care workers; two years later, Kathy and her spouse formally adopted her.

The Grohs are a mixed-race family, which she believes has affected the socio-emotional health of her daughter. Kathy advocates for training within child care settings to help young children with behavioral challenges and trauma. She believes the community should have programs that take the time, patience, and energy needed to work with children with special behavioral, emotional, mental health issues.

Child Care Stats in NE
Married parents of 2 children living at the poverty line pay 85% of their income for center care.

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

There are 112,257 children under the age of 6 in Nebraska 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.