



Kathryn Martin | South Carolina



Kathryn's story

After a short 6 weeks of maternity leave, Kathryn was forced to leave her daughter Kellie Rynn and return to work because she was the primary health insurance account for her family. Kathryn and her husband researched licensed and registered child care, identified a match, conducted research online, performed a background check, and read reviews on the Department of Social Services website.

On February 21, 2014, Kellie Rynn died in her provider's care. She was 3 months and 14 days old. On the day of this tragedy, the provider allegedly said she was only caring for the six children she was permitted to keep. But 14 more children were found in the basement with her teenage daughter, two in a bedroom unsupervised with a loaded gun in reach, and one toddler outside alone. The owner of the child care facility said all staff were all CPR-certified, but in fact, none of the staff were, and had to take instruction over the phone from a 911 operator.

Kathryn and her husband were told Kellie Rynn passed away from an anoxic brain injury caused by suffocation due to bedding. The provider was charged with child neglect for the children hidden in the basement, unlawful operation of a daycare, and obstruction of justice, but was never charged with the death of Kellie Rynn. The provider eventually accepted a plea deal for 18 months of house arrest, 5 years of probation, and 23 hours of community service.

Child Care Stats in SC
The cost of center-based care for 2 children in South Carolina costs nearly the same as 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 221,530 children under the age of 6 in South Carolina 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.