



Kaylen Ortiz | Kansas



Kaylen's story

On September 29, 2016, Oliver Ortiz, a happy and healthy nine month old baby boy was dropped off at a licensed family child care home provider. His parents, Rob and Kaylen Ortiz, had relied on the child care provider for five years prior. Sadly, however, Oliver did not come home. Specific details of his death are "pending investigation" and still not available to the family. They have a certified copy of the death certificate that ruled Ollie's death a "homicide" due to "blunt trauma," however, no arrests have been made. The child care providers (the owner and her assistant) reported that there was nothing out of the ordinary that day - no accidents or incidents were reported upon questioning.

Rob and Kaylen Ortiz are advocates for higher education requirements for child care providers, and for stricter safety guidelines. They believe that staff to child ratios should be modified to minimize the number of infants per caregiver. They also advocate for mandatory video surveillance in child care settings so that families can have clearer answers when incidents occur. Rob and Kaylen want their voices to be heard so that other families don't have to experience the same tragedy.

Child Care Stats in KS
The cost of infant care in Kansas is more than \$3,000 more than the annual cost of college 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 156,979 children under the age of 6 in Kansas 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.