



Kristin Cruz Jackson | California



Kristin's story

Kristin Cruz has been devoted to advocating for women and children for more than a decade. Her background as a radio and television host has allowed her to become a voice for moms all over the world. As a mother of three, Kristin understands how child care can become a heavy burden on parents. While hosting on a morning radio show, her hours were very untraditional and she found it extremely hard to find child care for her young children. She also became concerned with the quality of child care she had to choose from within her state. Through her experiences as a working mom, she created an organization called MOMS IN MEDIA that focuses on empowering moms and finding ways to make their life better.

Kristin currently holds a seat as secretary on her school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and has presented at multiple conferences on the need for moms to have access to early childhood education and child care resources. She has also been a champion for paid leave that will support all families, as well as re-entry programs for parents who choose to go back into the workforce after having children. Kristin uses her platform to advocate for affordable and accessible child care options, along with employee resources that support all working families.

Child Care Stats in CA
The cost of center-based care for 2 children in California is more than twice 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 1,751,677 children under the age of 6 in California who could be in need of child care.

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.