



## Lara Magnusdottir | California



### Lara's story

Lara Magnusdottir is a Public Policy Director at 4Cs of Sonoma County. She has been in the field of early childhood education and child care for 8 years. Lara currently focuses on policy and budgeting issues within the county, region, and state that impact early education. She has helped to create legislative priorities for a consortium of state-wide associations and continues to participate in legislative initiatives for child care in her state.

Lara's dedication to this field stems from her own experience as a single mother of two, which includes a child with special needs. When her son was in family child care the provider was closed by the licensing authorities after an infant died in the care of that provider. She also struggled to find the support needed for her daughter, who has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). These experiences enticed her to become an advocate for access, affordability, and better licensing policies for child care providers. Lara believes that all families should have the support of their federal and state legislators.

**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.