



Maarja Krogh | North Dakota



Maarja's story

Maarja has been in the child care field for more than 20 years. She has advocated on the local level and enforced state policies that have a positive impact on children in her community. She is also on the local association for Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN area where she supports training and collaboration activities with kids, providers, parents, foster parents and the community to bring the issues both good and bad to the forefront. Maarja is a mother of 10, a former foster parent, and a child care provider with an inclusion program. Her inclusion program provides children with specialists for therapy and preschool.

Maarja also volunteers with teen and unwed mothers, at-risk teens, and abused children and women. She helped organize a conference at the FargoDome with over 170 child care providers in support of high-quality, affordable, and accessible child care. Her passion for child care comes from supporting her children and the children she has fostered - she was unable to afford child care and found it difficult to juggle working as a head start teacher and finding a quality child care center. She created a child care facility after others failed to provide what families in her community needed. She believes that there needs to be an improvement in the regulation within her state. She also advocates for stronger programs that support the brain development of children.

Child Care Stats in ND
The cost of care for 2 children in North Dakota is nearly 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.

Child care workers in North Dakota make an annual average of \$20,550 (that's nearly \$2,000 below the national average!).

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.