



Rosa Castillo | Texas



Rosa's story

Currently, Rosa is a military spouse and mother of three. She's earning her college degree and looking for a new job at the family's current duty station while her husband is stationed there with the U.S. Navy. Life is a challenge, but nothing like the hardships Rosa knew not long ago. Before her marriage 2 years ago, she was a single mother with two children for 11 years, one of whom was diagnosed with a learning disability at age five. Rosa often had to make choices like between getting new tires for her car and paying the child care provider. She'd go to the local food bank just so she could feed her family.

Even now, Rosa and her husband are struggling to find a safe, healthy child care center for their one year old daughter. Until they do, it's almost impossible for Rosa to study and work on finishing her degree or apply for jobs that could help cover some of the cost of child care. Rosa has reached out to the mayor of Houston in advocating for child care and assistance programs for military families, but she thinks that all families should have access to quality early learning settings, not just those who can afford it..

Child Care Stats in TX
The cost of center care for 2 children in Texas is almost 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 1,342,054 children under the age of 6 in Texas 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.