



Sosha Chaney | Missouri



Sosha's story

Sosha was a single mother working nights and struggling desperately to find child care she could trust. Now, Sosha is now married, and a passionate advocate serving as a parent representative on the local Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Committee and the Equity and Diversity Council at Children's Mercy Hospital. Sosha credits her children's full-day early learning program, Operation Breakthrough, with helping the entire family move closer to meeting their goals for educational success and economic stability. In addition to being a nationally accredited Head Start center, Operation Breakthrough provides wrap-around services that support an array of family needs.

She recognizes that not all families have been so fortunate. Therefore, Sosha wants to confront the three main challenges she sees working families face: access to reliable, education-based child care that meets the needs of families working non-traditional hours; affordable, high-quality child care options; and funding and support for early childhood programs that offer wraparound services to families.

Child Care Stats in MO
The cost of infant care in Missouri is more expensive than 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 288,837 children under the age of 6 in Missouri 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.