



Tina Kendall | Washington



Tina's story

While raising the minimum wage was supposed to help working class families in Washington, many families find it is even more difficult to make ends meet. Wages increased, though many state subsidy income requirements were not increased alongside them. Families who were eligible for subsidies before the wage increases now do not qualify for many of the government programs they did before, including child care subsidies and free lunch programs. For child care providers like Tina, who serves families in Lewis County—a county with over 90% of families qualifying for low-income benefits—she has the difficult decision of keeping her child care center open to serve these families or closing its doors because it is no longer profitable. She worries if she closes her doors, families in the area will have no other alternative for child care, especially the special needs families she serves every day. However, it is getting more difficult by the day to make ends meet.

Tina advocates for low-income and special needs families who have a harder time than most families finding affordable child care. She also advocates for more funding from the state to help child care providers pay their early childhood educators. Children deserve the best educators they can get; however, with decreases in subsidies going to both child care providers and families, this is nearly impossible.

Child Care Stats in WA
The cost of center care for 2 children in Washington 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.

Child care workers in Washington make an annual average of \$25,110, just above poverty level for a family of 4.

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.