



Gary & Tina Rodden | Kansas



Gary and Tina's story

On July 27, 2016 Gary and Tina Rodden's 14 month old granddaughter, Harper Rodden, was killed while at a home based child care facility. Her death was preventable. The provider allowed the children to play in the front yard and driveway of her home during pick up time. Tragically, Harper was run over by the vehicle belonging to the family member of another child in her care. Harper would still be with us today had the child care provider practiced safe drop-off and pick-up procedures.

Proper safety procedures were not in place nor required by state law to protect Harper from being injured. Sufficient training was not made available or required to address drop off and pick up procedures. Communication was insufficient regarding safety procedures for the child care provider to parents and others involved in the pick-up and drop off process. As grandparents with 9 grandchildren in child care situations, the Roddens want to do everything they can to keep those little lives safe. Gary and Tina are passionate about ensuring Kansas and the nation have enhanced and consistent child care provider professional development requirements, and sufficient funding for child care provider training to fix deficiencies that put young children in child care at risk.

Child Care Stats in KS
The cost of infant care in Kansas is more than \$3,000 more 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 156,979 children under the age of 6 in Kansas 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.