



## Victoria Hilt | Washington



### Victoria's story

Victoria is a single mother with one child who became an early education and child care advocate after experiencing her own hardships of generation poverty, abuse and neglect, and severe trauma. She left an abusive relationship during her pregnancy, and then had to overcome homelessness and a conversion disorder that left her unable to speak.

It wasn't until she was on her own, living out of her car and relying on friends that she realized she wanted to go through therapy to regain her voice – not just for herself but for her child, who was still not yet born. With the help of Kitsap Community Resources, the YWCA, Head Start, and WIC, Victoria was able to get back on her feet and in a stable environment again.

Victoria's child is now an enthusiastic five-year-old, and she spends her free time advocating for child care and early education resources for other parents. Her knowledge has served her well, fighting for resources for children and families at the state and federal levels while pursuing her B.A. in Public Policy and Early Childhood Education Administration.

**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.**

**There are 306,651 children under the age of 6 in Washington 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.