

ALECIA PATRICK



ALECIA'S STORY

In April 2009, Alecia Patrick tragically lost her daughter Ava while she was being cared for at a family child care home. Ava fell in between the slats of a fence in the basement of the provider's home. The provider was taken to court, found guilty, and served a full prison term for her negligence. Spurred by the loss of her child, Alecia started to advocate at the state level to improve child care oversight in Kansas, and legislation was eventually passed in Kansas, due in part to Alecia's advocacy.

Now she has a second daughter and is struggling with the rising cost of child care. She is also concerned with inconsistent professional development requirements for child care providers in Kansas and across the nation. She is seeking more adequate funding to help mothers like her who need more affordable child care options, and also to provide better training for child care professionals to improve the quality and safety of child care for all children in Kansas.

CHILD CARE STATS IN KS

Millennial parents in Kansas spend on average 54.1% of their income on center-based child care for one infant.

The cost of infant care in Kansas is nearly the annual cost of college tuition at a four year college.

There are 156,189 children under the age of 6 in Kansas who could be in need of child care.

Congressional Requests: 2018

Provide a \$1 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in FY 2019. These new funds will help hundreds of thousands of low-income children gain access to high-quality care and help states better meet the needs of families.

Co-sponsor the Child Care for Working Families Act. This legislation would more than double the number of children eligible for assistance under CCDBG, and support the child care workforce.

PARENT ADVOCATE

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