# DITA QUINONES

## DITA'S STORY

As a single parent who works in a fast-paced newsroom, Dita knows how hard it is to afford quality child care, especially with nontraditional working hours. After her son was born, she worked from home in order to care for him, but money was tight. She applied for CalWorks, a program that would help her pay for child care so she could go back to school. However, finding a center that accepted the CalWorks subsidy took more time and resources than Dita had as a single parent.

Eventually, Dita found a center that would accommodate her nontraditional work hours while she was in a transitional shelter, but she always worried about the quality standards. Now, Dita still works nights and weekends at the newsroom, which doesn't allow her to access state funded or private child care. She relies on her parents for child care now, resulting in late-night pickups and hundreds of miles round trip. As a parent advocate, Dita has shared her story with fellow parents, educators, and leaders in the California statehouse.

## CHILD CARE STATS IN CA

There are 1,775,808 children under the age of 6 in California who could be in need of child care.

Married parents of 2 children living at the poverty line in California pay 94.9% of their household income for center-based child care.

Millennial parents in California spend on average 59.5% of their income on center-based child care for one infant.

### 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**
Contact CCW@usa.childcareaware.org for parent contact info

**CCAOA**
1515 N. Courthouse Rd.
3rd Floor
Arlington, VA 22201

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