

GARY AND TINA RODDEN



GARY AND TINA'S STORY

On July 27, 2016, Gary and Tina Rodden's 14-month-old granddaughter Harper was killed when her family child care home 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 a 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.

As grandparents with 9 grandchildren in child care, the Roddens want to do everything they can to keep those little lives safe. They are passionate about enhanced and consistent child care provider professional development requirements, and sufficient funding for child care provider training to fix deficiencies that put children in child care at risk. Gary and Tina have met lawmakers at both the federal and state levels to discuss ways to improve child care safety. Their advocacy continues through Harpers Hugs at www.HarpersHugs.com.

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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