

LAURIE FERGUSON



LAURIE'S STORY

On March 27, 2015, Laurie Ferguson's daughter, Bailey, fell from an open 2nd-story window at her state licensed child care center. She was treated for a concussion, dislocated shoulder, and broken wrist. Bailey's recovery was slow and painful; she suffered not only physical pain and emotional trauma, but had to take time off from school and was unable to participate in her usual activities. There were repercussions for the entire Ferguson family, including financial strain due to medical bills and time lost from work.

Laurie started researching safety issues in child care settings. She contacted state officials, including the state child care licensing director and reported a violation. After the 2016 Family Advocacy Summit, Laurie met with WV State Senator Charles Trump, who was instrumental in coordinating a meeting with five directors from child care divisions of WVDHHR. Since that meeting, improvements have been made to the state website for child care; however, she believes that more work needs to be pursued.

CHILD CARE STATS IN WV

Millennial parents in West Virginia spend on average 41.8% of their income on center-based child care for one infant.

Married parents of 2 children living at the poverty line pay 64.2% of their household income for center-based child care.

There are 68,692 children under the age of 6 in West Virginia 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.

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