

# LUANN & HERMAN ALLEN



## LUANN AND HERMAN'S STORY CHILD CARE STATS IN VA

On October 22, 2014, LuAnn and Herman Allen's 1-year-old grandson, Joseph Matthew Allen, died while in the care of an unlicensed family home provider. A fire broke out inside the house after the provider placed hot fire pit ashes in a bag in her garage. The provider repeatedly told fire and rescue personnel that all seven children in her care were accounted for, but she was wrong; she was caring for eight children that day. Joseph was found 45 minutes later, strapped into an upside-down infant car seat carrier in a second-floor bedroom where the provider had left him unattended.

The Allens later learned the provider lacked proper fire safety equipment and didn't even have a list of the children in her care. Virginia law was not sufficient at the time to charge the provider with criminal negligence. That's when the Allens began fighting for stricter penalties when a child dies or is seriously injured in an illegal, unlicensed setting. They were present to see "Joseph's Law" pass unanimously through the 2016 General Assembly, as well as at the Governor's signing of the bill into law.

There are 396,873 children under the age of 6 in Virginia who could be in need of child care.

Married parents of 2 children living at the poverty line pay 92.0% of their household income for center-based child care.

Millennial parents in Virginia spend on average 48.8% 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

Email: lballen217@gmail.com

#### CCAOA

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

