

WHITNEY RODDEN



WHITNEY'S STORY

On July 27, 2016, Whitney Rodden's daughter, Harper, was tragically killed when she was struck by a vehicle while playing in the front yard of her family child care provider's home. In Kansas, no state laws were in place to prevent this from happening, and sufficient training was not required to address drop-off and pick-up procedures at family child care homes.

Now, Whitney does everything in her power to protect children and families from the tragedy her family has endured. She keeps Harper's legacy alive by speaking with Kansas lawmakers, local media, and at public events, and by promoting Harper's Hugs (www.HarpersHugs.com). Now, she is extending her advocacy nationally to enhance data collection and reporting of injuries sustained in child care; improve the professional development requirements around vehicle safety, outdoor play spaces, and pick up/drop-off procedures; and to ask for sufficient funding for child care programs that improve and monitor the quality and safety of child care through Kids and Cars (www.kidsandcars.org).

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

Email: wtrodden@mnu.edu

CCAOA

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

