

ALEXIS SALTZMAN

ALEXIS'S STORY

When Alexis and her husband first became parents, they tried to work opposite schedules to avoid needing to find or pay for child care. Then, three years ago, Alexis decided to return to school to earn a bachelor's degree in computer science. They enrolled two of their three children in a child care center. They qualified for a child care subsidy, decreasing their overall child care costs. Last spring, they found out that the owner of their child care center planned to close and sell it. Another company that owns child care centers in Lincoln decided they would take over the building and offered positions to the teachers of the original center - but at very reduced rates of pay. None of the teachers stayed on.

The Saltzmans were looking at a very different child care center - one with unskilled teachers, little communication, higherrates, and no discernable curriculum. Alexis's husband then took a higher-paying job where his take-home pay increased just enough to make them ineligible for a subsidy. Their child care costs soon increased by almost \$600 a month!



Alexis dropped to part-time enrollment in school so that she could work to pay for child care for her youngest child, attend classes part-time, and still pick up her other child after school. Alexis wants to advocate for families like hers, who have had to sideline career and academic goals in order to make sure their children were in safe child care settings during their most formative years.

CHILD CARE IN NEBRASKA

- A single parent in Nebraska spends 47.3% of their income for center-based infant care.
- Married parents of two children living at the poverty line pay 95.2% of their household income for center-based child care.
- The cost of infant care in Nebraska is more than the annual cost of tuition at a four year state college.

2019 CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST

Provide a \$5 billion increase to FY 2020 Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding to ensure more children and families gain access to high-quality, affordable, and safe child care.