

LAURIE AND ANDY FERGUSON



LAURIE AND ANDY'S STORY

On March 27, 2015, Laurie and Andy Ferguson's daughter, Bailey, fell from an open second story window at her 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 and Andy started researching safety issues in child care settings and contacted their state officials, including the state child care licensing director to report a violation. Since attending the 2016 Child Care Works Family Advocacy Summit, Laurie has met

with WV State Senator Charles Trump and five directors from child care divisions of the WV Department of Health and Human Services. After the summit in 2018, Andy and Laurie collaborated with their local school system to talk about accountability and safety requirements in early education programs.

CHILD CARE IN WEST VIRGINIA

- A single parent in West Virginia spends 45.4% of their income for center-based infant care.
- Married parents of two children living at the poverty line pay 65% of their household income for center-based child care.
- The cost of infant care in West Virginia 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.