

# LEANN OHLSON



## LEANN'S STORY

Leann Ohlson is a mother of three, a licensed child care provider in North Dakota, and has been in the early education field for nearly 13 years. She thinks of the children in her care as part of her family and loves her time with them.

This passion for the work she does, as well as having a dear friend who lost her child due to unsafe sleep practices in a child care center, is what makes Leann work to help improve the safety and quality of child care for all families.

Leann understands from a very personal perspective how hard child care providers work to help children grow and develop while in their care, and how long and hard those days can be. The work is rewarding, even though the pay and support for the

child care workforce is very low. She's almost had to close the doors of her own family child care home on multiple occasions. The compensation and public investment in child care providers, despite them being early education professionals caring for one of our most precious resources - our children - is far too low.

## CHILD CARE IN NORTH DAKOTA

- A single parent in North Dakota spends 33% of their income for center-based infant care.
- Married parents of two children living at the poverty line pay 68.7% of their household income for center-based child care.
- The cost of infant care in North Dakota is more than the annual cost of tuition at a four year statecollege.

## 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.