

April 30, 2024  
Alejandra Flores  
Family Childcare Provider  
In Support of H-7251

Dear House Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony. I am in strong support for **Susan Donovan's bill, H-7251, the Early Educator Compensation Stabilization Act.**

These funds have been a relief to my program. It has been a comfort knowing that there are certain financial funds available to be able to pay the bills that come up each month. Food prices, we all know, have skyrocketed, and I must offer nutritious food to the children in my care; these funds help with that purchase. The children in the classroom always need something new to study or some material to replace; without these funds, it would not be possible.

As a provider, I have felt encouraged to continue studying, and the certificates in early childhood education that I have achieved with much sacrifice are celebrated with this incentive. Sometimes, as an adult, it is very difficult to achieve because of time, family, and fatigue after 10-12 hours of working with children.

Thank you for this initiative and this incentive to invite new generations of providers to come and stay in this field of work and train future professionals for our society. Our children are our future and they deserve quality early care and education.

The Early Educator Compensation Stabilization Act will invest \$2.5 million to continue the Child Care WAGE\$ national model program, to provide substantial wage supplements to recognize, reward, and retain qualified and skilled early educators with CDAs, associate's, and bachelor's degrees. This program will end in summer 2024 without new funding.

This act will also invest \$5 million to continue retention bonuses at \$3,000 per year for some early educators, those who are lower-wage, consistent, frontline child care staff, beyond the

projected end date in September 2024 to prevent loss of staff/closure of more classrooms and program.

Our child care providers are essential workers. They are being underpaid and undervalued. They deserve our investment, and it cannot wait. Please support the **Early Educator Compensation Stabilization Act**.

Sincerely,

**Alexandra Flores**