

April 30, 2024
Alexandra Flores
In Support of H-7251

Dear House Finance,

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.**

It gives me a sense of value after working 12 hours with children. It is importante to accumulate college credits not just a diploma, which allows us to achieve a higher incentive/compensation. This program motives others from the field to further their education and obtain the skills to offer better care. These funds can also help us to have a saving for emergencies and pay utilities too. (He sentido un reconocimiento a mi esfuerzo de estudiar después de 12 horas de jornada laboral con los niños. Quizá sea importante tomar el número de créditos acumulados durante el tiempo estudiado y no solamente cuando ha obtenido un diploma. Así alcanzaríamos un mejor incentivo. anima a otras personas del campo a estudiar y adquirir conocimientos para ofrecer un mejor servicio este fondo nos ayuda a tener fondos para emergencias de pago de utilidades).

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