

April 30, 2024
Aruna Rajaratnam
Assistant Teacher
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.**

My name is Aruna Rajaratnam. I have been an assistant teacher in the PreK room for the past 18 years. I have my associate degree in early childhood education. Working in this field is certainly not easy when it comes to how much I make. The Early Educator Compensation have been greatly appreciated and was a welcoming reward. Please continue with it.

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,

Aruna Rajaratnam