

April 30, 2024
Cherish Wright
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.**

I've used a portion of the WAGES money towards buying a new car, which will help my family out exponentially, and then another portion to pay off a credit card and help climb out of debt. To my life, this has helped me tremendously. I work very hard and sometimes it feels like I'm running in place, especially financially. Being able to relieve some of that stress has been an incredible boon to my life. Early Educators are not paid fairly. The work we do is important, imperative for children, their families and the community as a whole. We do more than provide child care, we are the first school experience your children will have. We set the tone, the expectations, the experiences of school for the rest of your child's life. While we deserve to be paid on par with more traditional schools, programs like Step Up to WAGES helps us to feel seen and appreciated. Is there a better gift than that?

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,

Cherish Wright