

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony. I am in strong support for Representatives Susan Donovan and Sandra Cano's **Early Educator Compensation Stabilization Act**.

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 programs.

Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

My name is Erin Barry, I'm 42 years old and I've worked in the ECE field for over 20 years. I love teaching young children, it has always been my passion however low wages + turnover make it difficult. This program has helped so much in relieving my stress of bills and other household needs. I come to work more relaxed + ready to give 100% on the children - this helps the energy + flow of

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**.

Printed Name: Erin Barry Date: 4-12-24

Signature: 

my room day to day, the children are happier and I feel as if I'm a little more engaged without additional financial worry. The program has also helped w/ staff turnover, making our team a more cohesive unit.