

April 30, 2024

Gloria Romano

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.**

I have been in the Daycare for 24 years. I love being with the children, teaching and making a difference in their lives by showing support and love. Having the retention bonus has helped me with my cost of living. I depend on these bonuses to help with mortgage and bills. I love my work but unfortunately, I do not make a lot of money in this business and would really like to stay at this job.

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 childcare 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,

Gloria Romano