

April 30,2024

Jennifer Butts

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 a master's degree in psychology but I have always been drawn to working with children. I have been working in a Daycare/ preschool setting for 23 years. I am about to get my infant/toddler CDA through the free classes at CCRI. I would really like my preschool CDA but cannot if this program ends. The \$750 bonus helped me keep my head above water.

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,

Jennifer Butts