

April 30, 2024
Kristin Silva
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.**

Getting this supplement has shown me how important I really am as being a teacher. I may not make as much as I deserve but it's still so rewarding watching these children grow because of all my help. If this program continues it will continue to help other teachers be more motivated to further their education. This is to help teachers feel more appreciated. I'm currently going to school and other teachers want to see that going to school won't be a waste of their time. There is huge shortage and turnover with teachers coming and going because the pay rate isn't the amount it should be.

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 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,

Kristin Silva