

April 30, 2024

Lee Ann Connors

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 am a single homeowner, and this was a great deal of help with bills. It also allowed me to have some extra money to provide some fun and exciting items for my class, to create projects and gifts for their parents. I appreciate this program and I am grateful for any programs in the future.

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,

Lee Ann Connors