

April 30, 2024  
Maria Feliz  
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.**

The supplement has financially benefited me in being able to play my household bills. It has ease the stress of worrying. When an educator is able to focus on her classroom, children learn more. The wage has helped lessen the load I carry economically. The importance of the wage has helped me feel valuable. This is a field that is not praised as much and a lot is demanded from educators and home daycare providers. This wage has helped me pause reflect and know that it's not always the money, but incentives does help.

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,

Maria Feliz