

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony. I am in strong support for Representatives Susan Donovan and Sandra Cano's **Early Educator Compensation Stabilization Act**.

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 programs.

Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I am a teacher in a preschool classroom as well as a mother and it is a great help to be able to count on child care wages specially with how expensive everything is now days. The same with retention bonuses which it is a great support to us as educators since we do not have the best job wages.

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**.

Printed Name: Brismyris Martinez Date: 4/15/2024

Signature: Brismyris Martinez

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

As a program director, these programs helped my teachers receive a bump in salary. Early Childhood Education can be a thankless job yet we all know how important it is. This field is in great need of quality teachers - and the pay scale is not in line w/ the importance of the job.

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**.

Printed Name: Michelle Cicchitelli Date: 4/15/24

Signature: 

This helps us keep quality teachers

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

These programs have impacted the ECE field in more positive ways. It has motivated teachers to strive to be better, understand the why behind ECE and supplies that are needed.

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Printed Name: Emma Portarelli Date: 4/25/24

Signature: EH

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I+ has helped me by getting my classroom more supplies, and it has helped me feel more supportive in the field

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Printed Name: Nicole Winn Date: 4/10

Signature: 

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I have been an early educator for 35 years. During that time though I loved what I did, I never felt properly compensated.

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Printed Name: Sara Foster Date: 4/11/24

Signature: Sara Foster

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early-Childhood Education Field?

After my experience in the Early Childhood Education Field, I believe that children would benefit from certified teachers. Educators work hard everyday so any support helps a lot!

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Printed Name: Rachael Ward Date: 4/15/24

Signature: Rachael Ward

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

My name is Erin Barry, I'm 42 years old and I've worked in the ECE field for over 20 years. I love teaching young children, it has always been my passion however low wages + turnover make it difficult. This program has helped so much in relieving my stress of bills and other household needs. I come to work more relaxed + ready to focus 100% on the children - this helps the energy + flow of

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Printed Name: Erin Barry Date: 4-12-24

Signature: 

my room day to day. the children are happier and I feel as if I'm a little more engaged without additional financial worry. the program has also helped w/ staff turnover, making

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

To Whom It Concerns

By getting the retention bonuses it has helped me maintain my house for example by a new washing machine & a new fence. For the classroom it helps the staff to stay & not look for other jobs

Thank you

Mary M Allienello

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Printed Name: Mary M Allienello Date: 4-11-24

Signature: Mary M Allienello

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

My name is Diana, I've been working with children for 11 years and this program makes me more relaxed as a classroom teacher because I'm not as worried about my expenses at home.

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Printed Name: Diana Montoya Date: 04/11/2024

Signature: Diana Montoya

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I have been in the ECE field for 20 years. Our teachers and ECE educators pour so much of their heart, time and effort into the children in their care as well as the classroom environment. I would love to see our teachers be compensated fairly as they play such a vital role. This would keep educators from the burnout and let them know that the work that they are doing is appreciated. 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**.

Printed Name: Willene Altera Date: 4/11/24

Signature: Willene Altera

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I have been a recipient of the retention bonuses which helped to supplement my income. I am now retired, but my passion for helping children, families + educators continues!

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Printed Name: Esta Yavner Date: 4-9-24

Signature: Esta Yavner

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I have found that the early childhood programs that I have worked in have really provided the children and their families* with a strong sense of community. Early education is an extremely important resource for children and families to grow and learn about themselves and opportunities available

*As well as teachers and staff.

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Printed Name: Leah Schniman Date: 04/12/2024

Signature: 

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

These programs helped me save money to buy a newer car so I could have reliable transportation to get to work. I was without a car for 6 months and this program helped beyond my normal wages making it possible. I love my job and working with my kiddos. It would have been heartbreaking to have to find a new job due to lack of transportation.

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Printed Name: Tammy Tenney Date: 4/15/24

Signature: Tammy Tenney

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I have seen the great impact that these programs have done on my co workers. They are more confident in their abilities in the classroom and with the kids.

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Printed Name: Brittany Garmes Date: 4/15/24

Signature: 

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I am an Assis Director at an early childhood center and I have seen 1st hand how important it is to show teachers how respected and valued they are. Paying them wages that allow them to meet the basic needs in their lives and beyond should be a given, not something we need to fight for. But this is sadly the case. Teachers deserve much more than they are paid at the moment.

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Printed Name: Lyndsey Ursillo Date: 4/12/24

Signature: L. Ursillo

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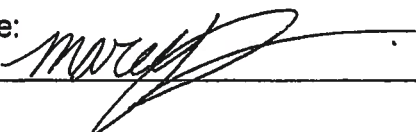
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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I HAVE BEGUN MY JOURNEY AS AN EDUCATOR, & THIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL FOR MY INCOME + COST OF LIVING. IT HAS ALSO HELPED IN CONTRIBUTING SUPPLIES FOR MY CLASSES.

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**.

Printed Name: MARY SANCHEZ Date: 04/11/24

Signature: 

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I love working in an ece setting and I've been doing it for 4 years but the pay isn't great. Retention bonuses help people like me stay in the field.

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Printed Name: Eliana Kaplan Date: 4/15/21

Signature: 

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

Programs have helped by providing
us with extra money to pay our student
loan debts and provided us with
some higher wages in our school.

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Printed Name: Yvonne Lopez Date: 4/15/24

Signature: 

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I work with younger infants and have this experience was really beneficial because I got to learn more about the program.

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Printed Name: Carmenita Edlang

Date: 4/15/2024

Signature: 

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

Mi nombre es Jeny empecé a trabajar en el centro como asistente de profesora hace 10 años es una experiencia muy bonita me encanta los niños son muy hermosos. uno aprende mucho. y también el bono que nos dan desde pues de la pandemia me a ayudado mucho por que? conseguí un carrito.

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Printed Name: Jeny Martinez

Date: 4-10-24

Signature:

Jeny Martinez

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I am an Early Childhood Ed Major
at Rhode Island College. Early Childhood
educators are underpaid!!!

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Printed Name: Elizabeth ATammaro Date: 4/15/24

Signature: Elizabeth ATammaro

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

My name is Rebecca Currie and I
am in early childhood education.

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**.

Printed Name: Rebecca Currie Date: 4/15

Signature: Rebecca Currie

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to testify that the Early Educator Compensation Stabilization Act has positively influenced my life as an educator. I have been an educator for over twenty years in the field. Over the years the pay for early educators has improved but not enough to maintain a livable lifestyle. The grants received under these acts help supplement my wages making it possible to live.

Before the grants I was living paycheck to paycheck. I didn't make enough to maintain a healthy lifestyle through my wages. The unhealthy eating manifested into health issues. Today I'm on a journey to better myself by supporting my whole being in healthy ways. Without the grants i will not be able to afford healthy foods, gym membership, medication or co pays for doctors visits.

The grants helped me as an educator gain recognition for the hardwork and dedication i performed day in and out. I was able to supplement my curriculum with supplies to support activities with funds from the grants. My overall lessons plans broaden since i financially could afford the extras needed for activities.

I personally feel valued knowing that legislature believes in the Early Education of RI and its Educators. For years we have endured low pay. The low pay leads to high turnover rates in child care centers leading to sub par early childhood education. Higher turnover rates lead to teacher burnout as educators have to over compensate for the loss of help. We are tired.

Let's do better. Let Rhode Island be the leader in early childhood education. Education starts at the foundation. The foundation being in infancy through pre kindergarten. Each age group looks different but has a curriculum with outcomes and individuality. These educators are

caring and guiding Rhode Island's future leaders.

Please consider passing the Early Educator Compensation Act as RI early educators are hard at work educating the future.

Thank You,
Sarah L. Wheeler

April 30, 2024

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

As a ECE educator, the retention bonus has helped me so much. It is important for us to receive help doing such an important job!

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Printed Name: Breanna Jones Date: 4/15/24

Signature: Breanna Jones

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony. I am in strong support for Representatives Susan Donovan and Sandra Cano's **Early Educator Compensation Stabilization Act**.

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.

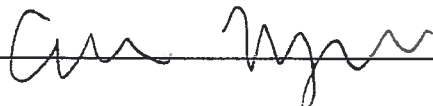
This act will also invest \$5 million to continue retention bonuses at \$3,000 per year for some early educators, those who are lower-wage, consistent, frontline child care staff, beyond the projected end date in September 2024 to prevent loss of staff/closure of more classrooms and programs.

Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

This field has made a huge impact on how I have seen teachers. Teaching makes a HUGE impact on everyone, not only students.

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**.

Printed Name: Chloe Marraresi Date: 4/15/24

Signature: 

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I teach preschool. The funds have greatly impacted my life as an educator. These funds help support early childhood classrooms.

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Printed Name: Sarah Paquette Date: 4-16-23

Signature:

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Tell us your story: Share a little about yourself. How have these programs made an impact for you, the children in your classroom, and the Early Childhood Education Field?

I am a senior in college & have been working in Education since I was 18. I am now graduating in Early Education & have noticed even more crucial Education & supportive services at a young age.

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**.

Printed Name: Kassandra Rivera Date: 4-15-24

Signature: Kassandra Rivera