

April 30, 2024
Omaris Maria
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.**

You are doing a great job with this, your project helps me to get better and enthusiastic and confident that you will always be on our sides. Yes, it should continue because always when I am more struggling I receive help from you guys. We are really concerned about the future of our daycare, we try at least in the personal I try to get the best for my children but everyday everything gets worse and worse, sometimes I feel so tiredly to get paid all the bills on time, each month changes highly. I don't exactly know what we are going to do.

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,

Omaris Maria