

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 WAGES 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?

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!

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: Rachael Ward Date: 4/15/24

Signature: Rachael Ward