

April 30, 2024
Stephanie Parent
Assistant Teacher
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.**

The purpose of this email is to inform you what this money has meant to me. I have been able to pay off financial debts, as well as save money for my daughter's college fund. I have also been able to purchase a new washer and two new windows. It might not seem like much but this money has been a true blessing. Please consider keeping this money available. As people are living paycheck to paycheck and it would help with bills, food and basic needs. It's always nice to be appreciated for the hard work we do daily. I thank you for reading this and truly hope you consider keeping these funds available.

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.**

Best regards,

Stephanie Parent