

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 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