

May 20, 2025

Re: In support of H-5196 Child Care for Child Care Educators

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Amanda, an educator in the early education field, strongly supports Representative Grace Diaz's bill to sustain and expand the Child Care for Child Care Educators program, H-5196.

The Child Care for Child Care Educators program is keeping teachers in classrooms. This in turn keeps classrooms open which allows more children to have child care which lets more parents hold jobs which strengthens our economy. By having access to child care, teachers like Amanda at a Head Start in East Providence, are choosing to stay in the field. Amanda has a 4-year-old daughter attending preschool using the Child Care for Child Care Educators program. Amanda stated that having her daughter in child care enables her to continue working full-time rather than having to reduce her hours to part-time, or worse, quit a job that she loves, to care for her daughter.

Having teachers working in the field of early child care is crucial to Rhode Island's children, families, and economy. Thank you for reading this testimonial and for your consideration of continued funding for the Child Care for Child Care Educators program, H-5196.

Story gathered and submitted on behalf of Amanda by Michaela Keohane, a Rhode Island taxpayer from Barrington and member of the Policy and Advocacy Committee of the Women's Fund of RI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michaela Keohane".

Michaela Keohane