

5/20/2025

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

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Tashya, an early childhood educator, strongly supports the Right from the Start Campaign's priority to continue funding the Child Care for Child Care Educators program, S-0100.

This program has served over 400 early childhood educators thus far. I spoke with Tashya Jackson, an early childhood teacher at Head Start in Newport. She is currently benefiting from this program and stated, "I love it. I am super thankful and appreciative of it." As a mother of a three-year-old, Tashya says she is always worried about paying bills, and having this program is helpful because she has more money for bills such as groceries. With this program, she has one less bill to pay and that is "a load off my shoulders," she stated. If the Child Care for Child Care Educators program ends, Tashya will be struggling to pay for housing, groceries, and child care. This is not sustainable on an early childhood teacher's salary. Tashya is a college graduate and has many career options where she could earn more money. The Child Care for Child Care Educators program is helping to keep her classroom open and fully staffed, providing high-quality early care and education to children from low-income families. Please keep a qualified teacher in her chosen career of teaching by continuing to fund the Child Care for Child Care Educators program.

The economy benefits when families have child care, when teachers can afford to pay their bills, and when children have quality education. Thank you for reading my testimonial and your consideration of Representative Diaz's bill to sustain and expand the Child Care for Child Care Educators program, H-5196.

Story gathered and submitted on behalf of Tashya 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