

May 9, 2024

Chairman Marvin Abney  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: In support of Representative Diaz's bill, H 7123

My name is Yeisha Pereira and I live in Providence in Representative Diaz's district.

I have worked at Children's Friend for about 10 years; first as an assistant and now as a lead teacher in a Head Start classroom at the Althea Center.

I am a single mom of two children – aged 14 and 4. For years, I wanted to become a lead Head Start teacher but was struggling to be a mom and work full time. I was considering quitting my job as an assistant because I was so stressed about trying to work full time and parent without child care for my four year old daughter.

Then someone at Children's Friend told me about the Child Care for Early Educators program where I could get a subsidy to send my daughter to child care. I applied right away and was accepted. My daughter was able to start in child care at another Children's Friend location and I was able to apply for and become a lead Head Start teacher.

Without this program, I'm not sure I would be working at Children's Friend at all, but definitely not as a lead teacher.

I love my job and am so grateful that this program allowed me to keep my job and move up into a better job. I hope you continue to fund the Child Care for Early Educators program so other early learning staff can stay in their jobs and maybe even take on jobs with more responsibility like I did.

Please pass Representative Diaz's bill H7123 that would continue this Child Care for Early Educators program and improve it so more staff like me can stay in in their jobs and have care for their children.

Thank you,  
Yeisha Pereira  
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