I became an educator because long ago a teacher had a profound and positive impact on my life. As an early childhood educator, we are the first teachers children encounter. Not only do we provide children with an early childhood experience, we also provide them with tools to regulate their social & emotional needs.

However I did not know that becoming an early childhood educator would lead me to financially struggle in life. At one point I was working three jobs and I was so exhausted that I broke down in tears in front of my Exective Director and had to leave work to get my self together.

When I became a single mom, I moved from a house into subsidized housing because I couldn't afford to live else where. Then I got benefits from the state such as health insurance, food stamps and energy assistance. I also live in a neighborhood where families in my center reside. One parent was baffled as to why I lived in this neighborhood and I told her as an early childhood educator I barely make enough money to survive. I can sympathize with our families in our center because I financially struggle too.

Although my center offers a 401K plan, I simply cant afford to put money aside for my future. I also do not have a savings account. This is very worrysome to me for the sake of my future for my daughter and I.

I would like you to consider increasing the wages of early childhood educators. Our job is hard and at times tiresome. I know if my wages are increased, I will be able to provide a financially stable future for my daughter and I. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Michele Zamagni