

Dear Friends at the State Capitol,

Those who are on the outside looking into early childhood programs can not SEE the heart of these programs. Behind those doors are educated, eager to learn specialized teachers that cater to the educational and emotional needs of children from 6 weeks old to 12 years old. These Teachers love the children as if they were members of their own family and truly believe they are a member of their family. I feel early childhood educators not only deserve but are entitle to greater financial compensation. There is a perception in society that early childhood educators are babysitters and play all day. We are not the babysitter we are TEACHERS! We are a group of people who deserve compensation to be able to start and support our own families. The quality of care has stayed consistent in NAEYC programs as we (the teachers) all have genuine love and passion for what we do. My fear is that without compensation and the price of everything from housing to food going up the love will not pay the bills, and many will have to trade in this profession to follow the money at McDonalds.

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