

# AUGUST ADVOCACY IS ACTION

Advocacy is Action is NAFCC's annual campaign mobilizing family child care educators, allies, and advocates to drive real policy change during the Congressional recess. Beginning August 11, 2025, educators across the country will rise in unified action to protect and strengthen the future of family child care.

This year's campaign comes at a turning point. Family child care continues to be squeezed out of the system, despite being the backbone of early care in rural, multilingual, and underserved communities. With nearly 100,000 FCC programs lost since 2012, and more closures looming, the stakes are higher than ever.



FAMILY CHILD CARE EDUCATOR

## Lenise Parker

Owner and Director of MiMi's Home Away from Home Nursery  
Lebanon, Tennessee

## Appointed Roles

- **NAFCC State Representative**

Advocates for better pay, protections, and recognition for early educators through legislative engagement with the California State Legislature.

- **Active NAFCC Member** and Advocate

Participates in NAFCC's Advocacy is Action campaign to raise awareness, share educator stories, and push for meaningful policy change.

## Impact

With over 5 years in the field, licensed to care for up to 7 children, with over 40 children and families positively impacted by her program over the years.

## Advocacy and Leadership

- **Child Care Leadership & Peer Engagement:** Hosts a monthly leadership roundtable for family child care educators, creating a space for peer support, shared learning, and professional growth.
- **Commitment to Professional Excellence:** Holds a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and completed a specialization in Family and Group Child Care, demonstrating a strong commitment to high-quality early care and education.
- **Advocate for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health:** Active member of AIMHITN (Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee), advocating for increased awareness, training, and support for mental health in early childhood settings.
- **Local and State Advocacy Leadership:** Member of the Provider Advisory Group and Nashville Area Family Child Care network, using these platforms to uplift the voices of family child care educators and ensure that policy decisions reflect their needs and experiences.
- Hosted a **Day Without Child Care rally** at the Tennessee state capitol, May 2025.