

September 2, 2022

**Bold on Early Educator Compensation Learning Community**  
**Session # 11: Build Political Power - Coalition Building and Advocacy**

**Overview:**

Kicking off our “building political power series”, participant Gabriela Quintana from the Economic Opportunity Institute (WA) facilitated a group discussion on the topic of coalition building and advocacy from her perspective.

**Take-Aways:**

**Barriers to advocacy + coalitions:**

- Families and educators are not always present at ‘tables of influence’ or key decision-making
  - When they are, we need to consider representation within these stakeholder groups such as FCC or centering communities that are traditionally marginalized in policy-making
- Despite a large ‘field’ of perspectives/players, there is a small window of influence/number of individuals actually making resource allocation decisions; Getting to those people can be a challenge, especially when those at ‘tables of influence’ are disconnected from those using or working within the child care system
- Coalitions that may have aligned interests are not always coordinated or providing cohesive messaging to legislators

**Strategies for building coalition or broad support for ECE issues:**

- Daily listening sessions like the inclusive 9:30 am calls Strategies for Children conducts in Massachusetts - read more about the 9:30 am calls [here](#).

- Supporting grassroots organizations that can move policy issues 'from the outside'
- Creating a unified advocacy platform so legislators know where to go to get a sense of related policy asks e.g. [Early Learning Action Alliance](#) in Washington
- Connecting coalitions that may be disjointed but have complementary aims like, as Gabriela from WA suggested, connecting the [Balance Our Tax Code](#) in WA who fight for progressive tax reform and the Early Learning advocates pushing for more resources for early education
- Bold, voter-led change like in New Mexico with the constitutional amendment for more money for child care
- Engaging business community through workforce or economic development councils, forums and targeted strategies to business owners - as many of you shared you are already doing
- Targeting materials to majority leaders and being aware of changes in legislature or committee leadership in your state

**Strategies for making coalitions accessible:**

- Make sure meeting times are outside of typical office hours for working families and educators to be able to participate
- Compensate people for their time and/or provide substitutes for educators;
  - Advocacy organizations can write compensation and providing food/transportation costs into planning grants
- Have a pre-meeting or training so people know what to expect and feel prepared/welcomed
- Communicate with participants afterwards so they know how their perspectives influenced any decisions