

Hi, I'm Baby

David

This is my story.

Location:

Siloam Springs, Arkansas

My Grown Up's Name:

Amy Garcia

“ Ann approached me in that courtroom when I had nothing. She said, ‘I will be here with you for the rest of your life.’



When babies and families have the resources they need, like food, steady income, and safe housing, it keeps children on track and makes our country stronger. Federal policies play a critical role in the well-being of both babies and their caregivers, including through paid family and medical leave, financial supports, community services, immigration enforcement activities that prioritize babies' well-being, and effective child welfare prevention and intervention programs.

Our story begins...

When David was 11 months old, he and my two other children (ages 2 and 6 at the time) were removed from my care. I didn't know I had a mental illness. I was incarcerated for about three weeks. After I was released, I couldn't see my kids for four months. My grief was something I had no words for and no tools to handle.

Then Ann showed up.

Ann approached me in that courtroom when I had nothing — when everyone around me saw a criminal — and she treated me like a person. She said, “I will be here with you for the rest of your life.” And she meant it.

Those months were hard. I cried nearly every day. But I also worked hard, getting into mental health treatment and learning to navigate the child welfare system. And I got my children back.

Baby David is 2 now. My children and I eat dinner together every night — phones off, screens off. Even David, who is still learning to talk, tells us about his day in his own way.

I almost didn't make it. But I am a better mother now, and my family is stronger than ever.

IT'S TIME To Make Policy Change

Every day, families like mine are making hard choices about how to stretch a paycheck, between housing, food, and everything babies need. For some families like mine, added challenges like child welfare system involvement or the fear of being separated from loved ones make it even harder to stay stable. I'm asking Congress to invest in policies that help families like mine stay financially secure, safe, and stable.