



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 1100 – CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND EMPLOYEES - BONUSES

Sponsor: Delegate Queen, et al

March 24, 2022

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

House Bill 1100 would require the Governor to appropriate \$16 million in the fiscal year 2024 budget to create retention and hiring bonuses for child care providers and employees as a way to encourage individuals to seek and maintain employment as a child care provider. An additional bonus would be available for individuals who already hold or earn a credential through the Maryland Child Care Credential Program (MCCCP).

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) COVID-19 Business Recovery Advisory Council, comprised of regional business executives, made a number of recommendations to assist businesses recover from the pandemic, with a particular focus on small and minority-owned businesses. Recognizing both the immediate problems, as well as a systemic shortage of quality licensed child-care options, the council called for state and local governments to address the immediate shortage and to create long-term solutions pertaining to child care through targeted policy or funding initiatives.

Without affordable and dependable child care options, Maryland's workforce is challenged to perform their employment responsibilities and duties to maximum capacity and capabilities resulting in loss of production in business operations. Adequate staffing is essential to dependable child care services.

The provisions in House Bill 1100 would encourage individuals to begin and sustain employment as a child care provider. In addition, MSDE must award hiring assistance bonuses to child care providers that participate in the Child Care Scholarship program to help pay for advertising, licensure or certification costs, background check fees, or paying the first month of salary to a new employee.

This bill is consistent with one of the key tenets in *Gaining a Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth. The pillar provides:

Government leadership that unites with business as a partner. Maryland leaders must set a welcoming tone that communicates positive support for business, respect for the private sector as a partner, not an adversary, and reflects a strategic plan for business growth and job creation.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on House Bill 1100.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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