



**Testimony Concerning HB 1100 - Child Care
Providers and Employees - Bonuses
Submitted to House Ways and Means
March 4, 2022**

Position: Support

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit organization advocating on behalf of 4,440 registered family child care providers plus an additional 145 registered large family child care homes. According to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in 2019, there were 6057 family child care programs open and operating in the state of Maryland. As of January 2022, that number decreased to 4,440, a loss of 1,617 programs. This translates to a loss of 12,936 child care slots for Maryland working families. This decline in registered family child care programs compounds the already existing problem for families that are looking for quality child care, especially those with infants and toddlers. These closed programs can be attributed to many things, such as long hours and low wages that are not compensatory. In addition to these, are excessive regulations and the fear and increased responsibilities due to the Pandemic.

People entering the workforce do not see child care (family child care specifically) as profitable or as a long term career. Before the COVID-19 Pandemic there was already a crisis in this important career field, attracting and retaining qualified people. The hours are long and wages low, only exacerbated by the Pandemic crisis. We are thankful that HB 1100 would provide incentives for a two-year period to assist in the hiring and retention of

qualified candidates in the child care field. MSFCCA would like to see a permanent policy in place to maintain long-term workforce development.

Children are Maryland's future and MSFCCA believes that HB 1100 would go a long way towards creating a stronger workforce in the child care field for the next two years, so we respectfully ask for your support and favorable vote on HB 1100. For comments or questions please contact Rebecca Hancock, MSFCCA Vice President of Public Policy at (301) 934-4445 or kaysplayhousechildcare@gmail.com.