



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

Support - House Bill 1100 - Child Care Providers and Employees - Bonuses

Ways and Means Committee

March 4, 2022

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **House Bill 1100 - Child Care Providers and Employees - Bonuses**. I would like to thank Delegates Queen and Solomon for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

Child care is an essential service that many families rely on each week. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, child care providers have been unsung heroes, allowing caregivers to continue working and the economy to endure. For some time, providers have struggled to meet the demand for their services due to increasing expenses and worker shortages. House Bill 1100 would provide a significant investment in the industry by creating a \$16M fund to provide \$1,000 bonuses to existing credentialed child care workers, and a \$500 bonus for certain new hires. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing staffing shortages within this industry, and many parents and providers are still struggling to get back to work. For the sake of our economy and specifically that of our working parents, Maryland needs to create direct incentives to ensure these employers are able to hire and retain top talent.

House Bill 1100 ensures child care providers have the resources they need to continue their invaluable contribution to Maryland's economy. For the reasons stated above, and the future of our children, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for House Bill 1100. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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