



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Testimony in Support of HB 1100
“Child Care Providers and Employees - Bonuses”
Submitted to the House Ways and Means and Appropriations Committees
March 4, 2022

Support

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) supports HB 1100, which would provide bonuses for child care workers and grants to help child care employers cover the costs they incur during the hiring process.

MDAEYC is a professional association of 1,900 early childhood educators, allied professionals, and families. We value educational equity, and strive to ensure all children from birth to age 8 have access to high quality early childhood education.

Child care providers generally do not earn an equitable compensation relative to the skills and training required for them to perform their jobs. This already poorly compensated workforce has suffered tremendously during the COVID pandemic, which led to program closures and child care providers leaving their jobs for less risky, similarly low-paying work. As a result, child care programs across our State are experiencing staff shortages, and many cannot even open all their classrooms due to lack of staff.

HB 1100 would provide modest hiring and retention bonuses for child care workers, a valuable initial step to help remedy the staffing crisis that child care is facing. We urge your support of this legislation.

If you have any questions, please contact: Stephanie Schaefer, Program Coordinator, at stephanie.schaefer@mdaeyc.org or 240-441-3280.