Maryland State Family Child Care Association

HB 1100 Early Child Care

Providers and Employees - Bonuses

Submitted to House Ways and Means

March 4, 2022

Position: SUPPORT

Good Afternoon, my name is Rebecca Hancock, I am the Vice-President of Public Policy for the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA). We represent approximately 4,440 family child care and 145 providers of large family child care homes in the state of Maryland. I would like to thank Delegate Atterbeary and the Committee for the opportunity to speak in support of HB 1100.

There has been a dramatic decline in family child care programs across Maryland. As of January 2022, there has been a loss of 12,936 child care slots. Unfortunately, people entering the workforce do not see child care (family child care specifically) as profitable or as a long-term career goal. Before the COVID-19 Pandemic there was already a significant crisis in attracting and retaining qualified people in the child care industry. The hours are long and the wages low, and this is only exacerbated by the Pandemic. We are thankful that HB 1100 would provide incentive bonuses for a two-year period to assist in the hiring and retention of qualified candidates in the child care career field. We would like to see a permanent policy in place to help maintain long-term workforce development. Children are Maryland's future and we believe that HB 1100 would go a long way towards creating a stronger workforce in the child care field for the next two years. We respectfully ask for a favorable vote on HB 1100.