

111 Ellershaw Court
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Senate Education, Energy, and
Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 280 – Support

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

As the parent of a child in a DoD-certified daycare, I am pleased to support SB 280, “Child Care Providers – Registration and Licensing – Exemptions.”

When I was three months pregnant in October 2020, my husband and I put our daughter on the waitlist for a DoD-certified childcare program in the area, with a requested start date of August 2021. As a professor at USNA, my husband was eligible to send Annalise to this program. We wanted this option because programs certified by the Department of Defense have the highest standards—about 97% have national accreditation, compared with 9% of civilian centers. Childcare providers at programs run by the DoD have higher wages, and fees are determined on a sliding scale based on need. It has been a template for federal legislation to create a national network of federally supported locally administered childcare options.

Due to the demand for services, a slot did not open for our daughter until she turned one, in May 2022. Our experience is not uncommon. Military and DoD civilian families still face long waiting lists for childcare, which can be especially stressful when a family is relocating new a new military base or federal work location.

I can attest to the high quality provided by DoD childcare programs, which has been evident since our daughter’s first day. We have consistently heard the same from other parents, whether their child is enrolled at a facility or in a family childcare home. I fully support this legislation, to remove an unnecessary layer of regulation, which will hopefully allow more programs to open in our State. For these reasons I urge a favorable report for SB 280.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Allison Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allison Taylor