



## Testimony Concerning HB 495- Early Childhood Development- Child Care Scholarship Program- Funding

Position: Support

My name is Ruby Daniels the current President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association and a family childcare provider in Howard County. The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that represents over 4,000 family childcare programs including large family childcare programs in the state of Maryland. Many of these businesses participate in the Child Care Scholarship programs and some rely solely on the Child Care Scholarship as a main source of income.

With the rising cost of food and other expenses, many of these businesses are struggling to make ends meet. Many family childcare providers have left the profession for various reasons and our numbers continue to decline. The Child Care Scholarship program is one that helps keep most child care programs afloat.

Funding the current reimbursement rates, maintaining the income eligibility requirements and family copayment at the current rate or the rate preceding the fiscal year is vital to keeping businesses afloat. Many child care providers and working families rely on the Child Care Scholarship program.



**Maryland State  
Family Child Care  
Association**  
[www.msfccca.org](http://www.msfccca.org)

Without the continued funding of the childcare scholarship, many working families will not be able to afford childcare. I would like to respectfully ask for a favorable vote on HB 495. Your favorable vote would help providers, families and communities supporting Maryland in our economic recovery.