



Testimony - HB 859, Access to Health Insurance for Child Care Professionals -
Outreach
Favorable
Senate Budget & Tax Committee
March 27, 2025
Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chairman Guzzone & Members of the Senate Budget & Tax Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents over 23,000 workers across Maryland including family child care providers. Our members have a role in the lives of Marylanders from cradle to career. We wish to express our strong support for Maryland House Bill 859, which takes a crucial step toward improving access to health insurance for child care professionals across Maryland.

Child care providers play a vital role in our communities, nurturing and educating our youngest learners while enabling parents to participate in the workforce. Yet, despite their essential contributions, many child care professionals struggle to access affordable health insurance. HB 859 addresses this disparity by enhancing outreach and support, expands eligibility for health benefits, and strengthens the child care workforce.

Providing affordable health insurance is not just a moral imperative—it is also an economic necessity. The child care industry is facing a workforce crisis, with many providers leaving the profession due to financial insecurity. Access to health insurance will help attract and retain qualified professionals, ensuring Maryland families have access to high-quality child care.

By passing HB 859, Maryland will take a significant step toward recognizing and valuing the dedication of child care professionals. This legislation aligns with the state's broader efforts to strengthen early childhood education and workforce development.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 859 and thank Delegate Solomon for his leadership on this issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs
SEIU Local 500