



**Local power, collective voice
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

January 30, 2025

SUPPORT – HB102 – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Application Year and Participation of Self-Employed Individuals

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of **HB102 – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Application Year and Participation of Self-Employed Individuals** which will allow self-employed individuals to enroll in the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland conduct community needs assessments and address the needs of children and families in their respective jurisdiction. This bill will address insurance issues found by family childcare providers who are often self-employed.

Family childcare providers are self-employed and do not have access to paid time off. This discourages people from becoming family childcare providers because of the lack of benefits and health insurance access. There is a great need for more childcare providers in our state. Maryland Family Network's data shows that family childcare providers will continue to close each year, leaving less options for families to access childcare to be able to go to work and for children to have educational opportunities in the critical developmental years of 0-5. Creating an avenue for self-employed people to access paid family and medical leave will fill a need for family childcare providers, and encourage more providers to join the industry to provide care for our youngest Marylanders.

We urge you to support HB102 – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Application Year and Participation of Self-Employed Individuals to support family childcare providers in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Chair