



TESTIMONY FOR SB0687

Child Care Scholarship Program – Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood Pilot Program - Establishment

Bill Sponsor: Senator Benson

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0697 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

In Maryland, we have created programs to help youth coming out of foster care to become successful. One of the programs we have created is the Child Care Scholarship Program. However, the requirements can be difficult for youth to prove that they meet, even if they do meet those requirements.

This bill will create a pilot program that will run between January 2026 and December 2028. The purpose of it will be to help youth coming out of foster care get scholarships. It will remove barriers such as –

- Proof of employment or enrollment in and education or career training program
- The name of the other parent of the foster youth's child
- A written authorization from a parent if the parent is not residing in the same household as the child

The goal is to help more youth get scholarships, which in turn will help them transition more successfully. We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.