

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

March 27, 2025

SUPPORT – HB0477 – State Department of Education - Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - Regulatory Analysis

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of HB0477 – State Department of Education - Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - Regulatory Analysis which will require the Maryland State Department of Education to conduct a thorough analysis of the State's regulatory framework for child care facilities. This will include focusing on regulations that limit a person's ability to register a child care facility, receive a license to operate a child care center, or profitably operate a child care facility while providing quality care. 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 and know that accessing affordable quality childcare is a challenge for families all over the state. This bill will address the challenges families and children face finding affordable quality childcare in Maryland.

In September 2024, the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards and the Anne Arundel Early Childhood Childcare Taskforce hosted the first annual statewide and third annual county summit to bring awareness to the needs of the childcare ecosystem. Childcare providers regularly report the overregulation of their industry by MSDE. One of the recommendations from this summit was to create a commission to examine childcare regulations including licensing and addressing the burdens of the EXCELS Quality Assurance program. We believe a commission will allow the state to identify and solve issues that make childcare unaffordable for parents.

We urge you to support HB0477 – State Department of Education - Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - Regulatory Analysis for MSDE to participate in a regulatory analysis of childcare facilities.

Sincerely.

Pamela M. Brown, PhD

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Chair