



**Testimony Concerning HB1300/SB 1000 -
“Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Implementation”
Submitted to the House Appropriations Committee, Senate Budget
and Taxation Committee, Senate Education, Health, Environmental
Affairs Committee, and House Ways and Means
February 17, 2020**

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit association advocating on behalf of approximately 4600 Registered Family Child Care Providers in Maryland that are a vital part of the child care delivery system. Family child care providers in Maryland care for a significant number of Maryland’s youngest children and typically work alone in mixed-age group settings.

MSFCCA has a few concerns with the findings of the Kirwan Commission, but remains cautiously optimistic that the “Blueprint” legislation will take full advantage of the community-based learning environments like family child care in its implementation. It’s important to explore the many benefits of family child care for children and families when moving Maryland’s educational agenda forward. The flexibility of family child care allows providers to build individual relationships and meet the individual needs of each child. They provide a continuity of care that prepares children for success, offering the opportunity for strong family engagements and cultural diversity of families. This is the foundation of early learning and it is happening each day in our members programs. In addition to preschool and school-age instruction, family child care providers offer much-needed wrap-around care that enables parents to drop-off children at one location. This not only facilitates a strong bond with one caregiver but also keeps children from spending portions of their day being transported to other locations. These and many other benefits make family child care a frequent choice of many families when choosing care for their children.

Thank you for this opportunity to give input on this very important legislation and again we ask that Registered Family Providers be included and embraced as an important part of the care and education of Maryland’s young children. Feel free to contact Rebecca Hancock, the MSFCCA Vice President of Public Policy at (240) 299-0222.