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MAYOR

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SB 890

February 25, 2021

TO: Members of the Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs
and Budget & Tax Committees

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 890 – Early Childhood Education - Child Care Provider Support Grant
Program

POSITION: Support

Chairs Pinsky and Guzzone, Vice Chair Kagan and Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 890.

SB 890 establishes the Child Care Provider Support Grant Program to provide funds to eligible grantees to help support the operations of child care centers and requires the Department of Commerce, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to implement and administer the Grant Program. This bill also requires the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$25,000,000 for the Grant Program.

The Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success supports the work of the Baltimore Children's Cabinet, including its dedication to improving the early childhood development of our youngest residents. Access to high quality child care will become even more scarce as the COVID pandemic has reduced the number of operating child care providers in Baltimore City. Financial support for child care providers will be critical in addressing the shortage and ensuring that all Baltimore children are well cared for and ready for kindergarten.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 890.