



Maryland State Family Child Care Association

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March 9, 2021

Oral Testimony

Position: Favorable

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

My name is Ruby Daniels, a family child care provider in Howard County and also the President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association representing over 4,000 family child care providers in Maryland. I would first like to thank Delegate Pinsky, Delegate Kagan and the rest of the committee for this opportunity to speak in support of SB 711.

Family child care providers who are mostly women and minority business owners, provide a valuable service for working families. During the pandemic, family child care was the preferred choice of most working parents due to the small group size. Also, at the height of the pandemic, family child care providers stepped up and provide child care services to children of essential personnel.

Over the years, family child care providers/programs have been declining. To put this in context, in 2020 there were 5,091 family child care programs that were open and operating, as of February 2021, only 4,345 were operational, that is a decline of 745, a 14.63% decline in one year, which translates to a reduction of nearly 6,000 child care slots for working parents. As we continue to vaccinate our citizens and prepare for the resumption of schools, most working families will be surprised at the lack of access to child care, most working parents especially women will not be able to return to work without child care.

SB 711 Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program will help stop the decline by increasing the supply of family child care providers/programs. The bill will also encourage new providers into the field and possibly increase the current capacity of existing programs, this can be achieved by converting an existing family child care program into a large family child care home, if space and additional staff is available. The Pilot program will also assist existing family child care programs by providing technical assistance, something that is greatly needed by the family child care community as MSDE move toward modernization.

MSFCCA and our members would like to thank Delegate King for sponsoring this bill and we would like this committee to give SB 711 a favorable vote. This bill will save an industry and help working families. Thank you so much for your time.

Respectfully yours,
Ruby Daniels
President, MSFCCA

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