

February 23, 2021

Oral Testimony

SB 890 - Child Care Provider Support Grant Program 3

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Good Afternoon,

- My name is Ruby Daniels, and I am the President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) and I would like to thank Senator Pinsky and this committee for this opportunity to time to speak on behalf of my members and our support of SB 890.
- MSFCCA represents over 4700 registered family child care providers and Large Group Homes and are an important part of the child care delivery system in Maryland.
- COVID-19 has impacted many lives and businesses.
- During the COVID-19 Pandemic Family Child Care was vital in keeping essential personnel working.
- Family Child Care and Large Family Child Care Homes have been adversely affected during the Pandemic. Some have been forced to close or are struggling daily to remain open due to the financial impact of the virus. The repercussions of COVID on the early childhood profession will no doubt have far-reaching affects into the future.
- The programs that have remained open during this pandemic have and continue to suffer financial losses due to a loss of enrollment or low enrollment from unemployed or fearful parents. Other contributing factors to these losses are; purchase of PPE, exorbitant amounts of cleaning supplies, additional education supplies.
- SB 890 will allow for prioritizing of awards to programs located in areas of high poverty and will help providers begin a career that will help them take care of their families.
- MSFCCA supports SB 890, and believes that it is a positive first step in helping reestablish and strengthen quality child programs.