

SB890_KennedyKrieger_Support_ChildcareGrant.pdf

Uploaded by: Arneson, Emily

Position: FAV



DATE: February 25, 2021 **COMMITTEE:** Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
BILL NO: Senate Bill 890
BILL TITLE: Early Childhood Education - Child Care Provider Support Grant Program (The Child Care Provider Support Act)
POSITION: Support

PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs, an affiliate of the Kennedy Krieger Institute, supports Senate Bill 890.

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 890 establishes the Child Care Provider Support Grant Program within the Maryland Department of Commerce, in consultation with the Maryland State Department of Education. This bill intended to offset the financial loss from the pandemic.

Background:

PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs, Inc. operates the **only child care centers in the Baltimore Metropolitan area for young children who are medically fragile and infants and toddlers who are homeless.**

World of Care (WOC) Medical Child Care

- Only child care center in the Baltimore Metropolitan area for young children (ages birth to five) needing daily nursing care and specialized equipment not available in typical child care centers, i.e. children with:
 - Heart and breathing problems requiring monitors and oxygen
 - Eating disorders requiring nourishment through feeding tubes
 - Severe seizure disorders
 - Organ transplants and other serious surgeries
 - Juvenile Type I diabetes
- Comprehensive services include daily skilled nursing care/interventions, occupational, physical and speech therapy
- Pre-COVID-19, WOC served about 54 children full time
- Currently, during the pandemic, WOC is able to serve approximately 37 children, many of whom are being served on a part-time basis
 - Because of the special needs of these 37 children, the staffing is similar to that typically needed for pre-COVID-19 census for the child care center

Therapeutic Nursery (TN) for Homeless Infants and Toddlers

- Only Early Head Start/child care center in Baltimore City providing specialized attachment-based, trauma-informed care and education for infants and toddlers whose families are currently living in homeless shelters or transitioning back to the community
- Mental health services for parents using research-based interventions
- Pre-COVID-19, TN served 24 children at any given time
- Currently, during the pandemic, TN is serving children virtually with no on site services



Rationale:

PACT's goal is to serve all children in need, regardless of family income. While PACT receives government, foundation and corporate grants, as well as donations from generous private donors, our funding does not cover the actual cost of providing the complex array of services our children and families require. Additionally, our programs need sustained state funding that reflects annual cost-of-living adjustments to be able to achieve comparable wages for pre-k programs across the State.

Like many child care providers throughout the State, PACT has been deeply impacted by COVID. Because of the specialized services needed by our children, nursing, therapy services, medical supplies, administration of special procedures, medical and specially trained staffing has not changed even with the reduction in children. Since the onset in the spring of 2020, PACT has experienced increased expenses for PPE, including masks for adults and children, gloves and cleaning materials. We've also experienced increased costs for staffing, as we need more people to keep classrooms completely separated and for extra cleaning, getting children to/from parents and daily health screenings. We've also had to account for a significant rise in the time and cost of onsite janitorial services to ensure our space is sanitized for both our students and teachers. Our revenues, already challenged prior to the pandemic, have decreased as we must reduce class size to keep our children safe.

Our children have health vulnerabilities and are more susceptible to community illnesses and severe outcomes from illness. Due to the complexity of their needs, parents are extremely limited on where they can send their children. Our programs fulfill the need for safe childcare, and more, by providing a comprehensive environment where a child can receive specialized services. Without supportive funding, our programs are at tremendous risk of closure. We cannot afford to lose this resource for our children.

PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 890.

PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs, Inc. is an independent affiliate of Kennedy Krieger Institute. PACT retains its own 501(c) (3) status, a separate board of directors and is responsible for securing funds for its programs. Our mission is to promote the development of young children with special needs and their families.

Oral Testimony for HB 890 2-25-21.pdf

Uploaded by: DANIELS, RUBY

Position: FAV

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.

SB 890 2-25-21 (5).pdf

Uploaded by: DANIELS, RUBY

Position: FAV



Testimony Concerning SB 890 – Early Childhood Education – Child Care Provider

Support Grant Program 3 (The Child Care Provider Support Act)

Submitted to Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 25, 2021

Position: Support

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit association advocating on behalf of approximately 4700+ registered family child care providers and 140 large family child care homes in Maryland. These small businesses are a vital part of the child care delivery system in Maryland and a significant portion of the child care programs that have remained open to essential personnel during the COVID-19 Pandemic. As a workforce, our members normally care for approximately 50% of all children in Maryland under the age of two and typically work alone in mixed-age group settings.

As the association representing family child care in Maryland, we have seen our members struggle to make ends meet during the pandemic so we continue to advocate for programs and legislation to support the industry. Many family child care programs closed at the beginning of the pandemic with approximately 89% reopening. This is good news for families, however reduced enrollments and stringent safety protocols are the new normal and many providers are struggling to pay themselves and/or staff as well as their rent/mortgage, utilities, food and all other necessary business expenses. The ongoing purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other COVID related supplies adds to a program's operating expenses, while the daily threat of a positive diagnosis means closing, a deep cleaning and a lengthy quarantine with no tuition until re-opening.

COVID has widely impacted child care enrollment across the state. Parents who are unemployed or working from home no longer need or can afford child care and these small programs have had to absorb that loss and try to stay afloat with less income but increased costs. Some programs are caring for school-age children and are overseeing their Virtual Learning while school

buildings in most counties remain closed. This has helped some, but for those with children enrolled in the Maryland Scholarship Program it has proven to be a dilemma, since they are caring for children all-day but only paid for before-and-after care due to a lack of Scholarship funding.

There are programs that closed permanently in the beginning of the pandemic due to the fear of transmission, still others closed with the intent of reopening when it became safe. Whatever each program does in the end, there is no doubt that most have taken a financial hit that has been devastating to their business, and it will likely take years for the child care community to recover. SB 890 is a positive step in helping reestablish and strengthen quality child care programs. This bill develops Child Care Provider Support Grants that will award an eligible grantee an amount of no more than 2 months total operating expenses. These expenses can include payroll, rent or mortgage, utility and other similar expenses necessary for the operation of the program. The grant will allow for prioritizing of awards to programs located in high poverty zip codes and/or in areas where a large number of programs have closed. The Grants will begin July 2021, then in 2023, \$25 million dollars will be allocated yearly in the Governor's Budget to continue these Grants. MSFCCA would like to thank Delegate Jared Solomon for including Family Child Care programs and Large Family Homes in this legislation.

Maryland is recognized as a national leader in early care and education policy and giving SB 890 a favorable vote will begin the process of saving an industry that is vitally important to our future, our families and our economy. MSFCCA appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on this legislation. Feel free to contact Rebecca Hancock, the MSFCCA Vice President of Public Policy at 240-299-0222 (cell) or 301-934-4445 (Home) to answer any questions concerning this testimony.

SB 890- MoCo- (GA2021) SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Frey, Leslie

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 890

DATE: February 25, 2021

SPONSOR: Senator King

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Early Childhood Education – Child Care Provider Support Grant Program (The Child Care Provider Support Act)

Senate Bill 890 establishes the Child Care Provider Support Grant Program to provide funds to eligible grantees to help support the operation of child care centers. The Department of Commerce, in consultation with the Maryland State Department of Education, must implement and administer the grant program. Beginning in fiscal 2023, the Governor must include \$25.0 million annually in the State budget for the program.

Montgomery County supports Senate Bill 890 and the much-needed fiscal relief it would bring to child care centers and family providers. Revenue loss resulting from efforts to contain the spread of the disease and the stringent requirements for reopening put the viability of child care businesses in jeopardy. The State's requirements for reopening child care include smaller group sizes and strictly established health standards necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The smaller group sizes significantly reduce tuition payments to be collected by providers, while they must continue to maintain the staffing levels and other fixed costs and increase spending for personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, and other materials needed for the safe delivery of services.

Prior to COVID restrictions, the child care industry struggled with sustainability challenges. Cost-of-care studies showed the typical child care program operating at a deficit or at best, a break-even situation. Child care is an essential service to support families as they return to work and is critical to the County's economic sustainability. Without public investment and support, licensed, quality child care in Montgomery County is not sustainable under the current conditions. Montgomery County respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 890.

SB 890 Final Written Testimony for 2-25-21.pdf

Uploaded by: Hancock, Rebecca

Position: FAV



Testimony Concerning SB 890 - Early Childhood Education - Child Care Provider

Support Grant Program 3 (The Child Care Provider Support Act)

Submitted to Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 25, 2021

Position: Support

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit association advocating on behalf of approximately 4700+ registered family child care providers and 140 large family child care homes in Maryland. These small businesses are a vital part of the child care delivery system in Maryland and a significant portion of the child care programs that opened to Essential Personnel during the COVID-19 Pandemic. As a workforce, our members normally care for approximately 50% of all children in Maryland under the age of two and typically work alone in mixed-age group settings in our home.

As the association representing registered family child care in Maryland, we have watched our members struggle to make ends meet during the pandemic which drives us to advocate for programs and legislation to support this important industry. All family child care programs were told to close at the beginning of the Pandemic, but many reopened to serve essential workers. This is good news for families, however reduced enrollments and stringent safety protocols are the new normal and many providers are struggling to pay themselves and/or staff as well as their rent/mortgage, utilities, food and all other necessary business expenses. The ongoing purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other COVID related supplies adds to a program's operating expenses, while the daily threat of a positive diagnosis means closing, a deep cleaning and a lengthy quarantine with no tuition until re-opening.

COVID has widely impacted child care enrollment across the state. Parents who are unemployed or working from home no longer need or can afford child care and these small programs have had to absorb that loss and try to stay afloat with less income but increased costs. Some programs are caring for school-age children and are overseeing their Virtual Learning while school

buildings in most counties remain closed. This has helped some, but for those with children enrolled in the Maryland Scholarship Program it has proven to be a dilemma, since they are caring for children all-day but only paid for before-and-after care due to a lack of Scholarship funding.

There are programs that remained closed in the beginning of the pandemic due to the fear of transmission and have now chosen to close permanently. Still others closed with the intent of reopening when it became safe. Whatever decision each program makes, there is no doubt that most have taken a financial hit that has been devastating to their business, and it will likely take years for the child care community to recover. SB 890 is a positive step in helping reestablish and strengthen quality child care programs. This bill develops Child Care Provider Support Grants that will award an eligible grantee an amount of no more than 2 months total operating expenses. These expenses can include payroll, rent or mortgage, utility and other similar expenses necessary for the operation of the program. The grant will allow for prioritizing of awards to programs located in high poverty zip codes which will help provide equitable access to high-quality child care programs. They will begin in July of 2021 and each year thereafter \$25 million dollars will be allocated in the Governor's Budget for them to continue. Family child care is traditionally made up of women and minorities who in many cases are single family households, SB 890 will help these providers be better equipped to financially support their families by pursuing a career in the Early Education Field. MSFCCA would like to thank Delegate Jared Solomon for including Family Child Care programs and Large Family Homes in this legislation.

Maryland is recognized as a national leader in early care and education policy and giving SB 890 a favorable vote will begin the process of saving an industry that is vitally important to our future, our families and our economy. MSFCCA appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on this legislation. Feel free to contact Rebecca Hancock, the MSFCCA Vice President of Public Policy at 240-299-0222 (cell) or 301-934-4445 (Home) to answer any questions concerning this testimony.

MAP - SB 890 - Child Care Grant Program - Support.

Uploaded by: Jefferson , Stacey

Position: FAV



Member Agencies:

Advocates for Children and Youth
Baltimore Jewish Council
Behavioral Health System Baltimore
CASH Campaign of Maryland
Catholic Charities
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Family League of Baltimore
Fuel Fund of Maryland
Health Care for the Homeless
Homeless Persons
Representation Project
Job Opportunities Task Force
League of Women Voters of Maryland
Loyola University Maryland
Maryland Catholic Conference
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Maryland Community Action
Partnership
Maryland Family Network
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Paul's Place
Public Justice Center
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore
Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

Stacey Jefferson, Co-Chair
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Julia Gross, Co-Chair
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 890

Early Childhood Education-Child Care Providers Support Grant Program. (The Child Care Provider Support Act)

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 25, 2021

Submitted by Stacey Jefferson and Julia Gross, Co-Chairs

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly supports SB 890, which would provide financial relief for childcare providers in Maryland that are struggling or closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Grants would be able to pay for rent, payroll and other necessary expenses to ensure programs continue. Particularly important to MAP, eligibility would require that the providers accept State scholarship vouchers and prioritize grant recipients from high poverty zip codes.

Childcare providers are struggling, many have closed and many more will close before the pandemic ends. According to a June 2020 by the Maryland Family Network, 67% of childcare providers experienced a loss in revenue due to Covid-19.¹ More alarming, over 50% of providers reported that an extended closure would force them to close permanently.² To-date 16% of providers have closed in Maryland.

Without assistance, we are going to be in new crisis once people return to their traditional offices, a lack of childcare providers. This will be particularly burdensome to single parents/guardians and women who are already disproportionately affected by poverty. Providing financial and other supports for childcare to offset reduced enrollment and increased COVID related expenses will help all families, but especially low-income families who will have to choose between going back to the office or taking care of their children.

MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 890.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.

¹ <https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/2020%20MFN%20Caring%20During%20Covid%20%28bg%29%201.3%20Pages%5B1%5D.pdf>

² <https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/2020%20MFN%20Caring%20During%20Covid%20%28bg%29%201.3%20Pages%5B1%5D.pdf>

MMF-Written Testimony-For SB 890.docx (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Jones, Tiffany

Position: FAV

montgomery moving forward

mobilizing leaders to solve our biggest problems together
nonprofits / business / philanthropy / government / education / community

February 23, 2021

Esteemed Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation Committees,

Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF), a collective impact initiative of Nonprofit Montgomery, is committed to advancing equitable, accessible systems change in the early care and education (ECE) sector in Montgomery County. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, MMF convened over 50 labor, business, education, philanthropic, and nonprofit leaders in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. This diverse cross-sector Early Care and Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition understands that a resilient early care and education workforce is necessary for our state's economic recovery.

MMF supports SB 890, the Child Care Provider Support Act, which would establish a grant program to provide funds to support the development and expansion of child care programs, and **we support language that extends this grant program to family child care providers as well as center based providers.**

Without this type of support, many child care programs will close, many child care employees will lose their jobs, other employees may have to leave the workforce due to lack of child care, and many children will not receive the quality early learning that they need to succeed in school and beyond.

While the Governor's recent announcement of a one-time \$60 million Pandemic Relief Grant Program for Child Care Providers is important and necessary, the child care sector needs and deserves continuous public investment if it is to develop infrastructure that can withstand future shocks. ECE is an essential component of Maryland's economy and is vital to a thriving and equitable community. It enables working parents to get to work, be it virtually or at home, and be productive knowing their children are supported, learning, and safe. ECE enables employers to attract and retain qualified staff.

However, without sustained help, more ECE providers will close their doors or be forced to raise tuition and fees. According to a recent study by the Maryland Family Network, 67% of child care business owners have experienced a loss in revenue due to closures and mandated reduced attendance, with 60% of them reporting that they will need financial support to survive. As a result, more families will have to choose between their children and their jobs. In Montgomery County, where residents must make at least \$90,000 to make ends meet, families can ill afford to dedicate more of their income to ECE. As more families are faced with leaving the workforce, employers will lack the talent to fuel our rebound. Our families, our children, our economies, and our communities will suffer.

ECE is an economic and social justice imperative and a pillar of Maryland's economy that demands our utmost and immediate investment. **We urge you to give SB890 a favorable report.**

Respectfully and sincerely,

Montgomery Moving Forward Co-Chairs and Members of the Early Care and Education Workforce
Advocacy Coalition

Lindsey Allard Agnamba, CEO, School Readiness Consulting; **Laura Bardini**, Executive Director, Rockville Day Care Association, Inc.; **Kevin Beverly**, Economic Development Advocate; **Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta**, Director, CentroNia; **Bob Buchanan**, Buchanan Partners and 2030 Group; **Jody Burghardt**, Division Director, Children, Youth and Family Services, Shepphard Pratt; **Community Action Board**, Montgomery County; **Ruby Daniels**, Director, Maryland State Family Child Care Association; **Stewart Edelstein**, Education Advocate; **Sharon Friedman**, Director, Montgomery Moving Forward; **Martine Sadarangani Gordon**, Vice President of Programs, Washington Area Women's Foundation; **Michelle Green**, Executive Director, Montgomery Child Care Association; **Joanne Hurt**, Executive Director, Wonders Early Learning + Extended Day; **Tiffany Jones**, Family Childcare Provider; **Christina Lopez**, President, Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC); **Susan Madden**, Montgomery Moving Forward, Co-Chair and Chief Government Relations Officer, Montgomery College; **Benjamin Orr**, President and CEO of the Maryland Center on Economic Policy; **Christina Peusch**, Executive Director, Maryland State Child Care Association; **Laura Weeldreyer**, Executive Director, Maryland Family Network

SB 890 MDAEYC Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Lopez, Christina

Position: FAV



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Testimony in Support of SB 890
“Early Childhood Education - Child Care Provider Support Grant Program
(The Child Care Provider Support Act)”
Submitted to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee
February 23, 2021

Position: Support

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) supports SB 890, which would establish a grant program to provide funds to support the operating expenses required to sustain child care programs during the pandemic.

MDAEYC is a professional association of 1,500 early childhood educators, allied professionals, and families. We promote high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood education practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children. Many of our members are educators working in child care centers or family child care homes.

We hear from our members daily about the immense financial strain their child care programs are under due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many sectors of our economy, the child care sector has been devastated by the pandemic. Child care programs are operating with reduced group sizes in classrooms to limit COVID exposure, and increased expenses for extra cleaning supplies, PPE (personal protective equipment) and staff time to implement new health and sanitation protocols. These new and necessary requirements increase child care programs’ operating expenses. As a result, many programs are running at a financial loss just to remain open.

Survey data from Maryland child care providers show that 64% of child care providers said they are currently operating at substantial loss, even as they are desperately trying to stay open for the children and families they serve.¹ The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), our national organization, conducted a series of surveys of the impact of the pandemic on child care providers nationally over the past

¹ National Association for the Education of Young Children. (2020, December). *State Data: Child Care Providers Are Sacrificing to Stay Open and Waiting for Relief*. <https://www.naeyc.org/pandemic-surveys>



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

year.² In the most recent survey, conducted in November 2020, NAEYC surveyed thousands of programs across the country. NAEYC surveyed 213 child care providers in Maryland (with 51% from child care centers and 49% from family child care homes). The survey responses reveal that child care providers in Maryland and around the country are facing financial crisis and risk closing their programs permanently:

- 68% of Maryland child care providers surveyed said that they have put supplies or other items on their personal credit cards, or have dipped into their personal savings accounts to help support their child care programs.
- 32% of Maryland child care providers surveyed said that they will have to close their programs within three months if enrollment stays where it is and they don't receive additional public support.

The widespread closure of child care programs would be devastating for child care staff. Beyond that, child care program closures would also be damaging to our communities and businesses. Most parents with young children need child care in order to report to work. Without child care programs, workers in all sectors of our economy will face a child care shortage, which will limit their ability to work.

While Maryland now has the new Child Care Pandemic Relief Fund in place, we know it is not enough to provide the financial support needed to stabilize our struggling field, so we welcome this additional proposed funding source. SB 890 would provide critical financial support to child care programs, to enable them to remain open and operating, while contributing to the sustainability of this essential economic infrastructure. We urge your support of this legislation.

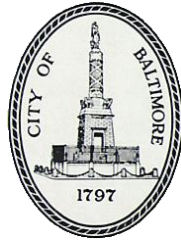
If you have any questions, please contact: Christina Lopez, President, at christina.lopez@mdaeyc.org or 301-751-1626.

² National Association for the Education of Young Children. (2020, December). *Am I Next? Sacrificing to Stay Open, Child Care Providers Face a Bleak Future Without Relief.* <https://www.naeyc.org/pandemic-surveys>

SB890-BT-EHEA-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Mehu, Natasha

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

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.

SB980 Early Childhood Center Grants.pdf

Uploaded by: Miicke , Sarah

Position: FAV

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Baltimore Board of Rabbis
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
Baltimore Men's ORT
Baltimore Zionist District
Beth Am Congregation
Beth El Congregation
Beth Israel Congregation
Beth Shalom Congregation of
Howard County
Beth Tfiloh Congregation
B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
B'nai Israel Congregation
B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
Bolton Street Synagogue
Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
Chizuk Amuno Congregation
Congregation Beit Tikvah
Congregation Beth Shalom of
Carroll County
Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
Federation of Jewish Women's
Organizations of Maryland
Hadassah
Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
J Street
Jewish Federation of Howard County
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish War Veterans
Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
Jewish Women International
Jews For Judaism
Moses Montefiore Anshe Emenah
Hebrew Congregation
National Council of Jewish Women
Ner Tamid Congregation
Rabbinical Council of America
Religious Zionists of America
Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
Shomrei Emenah Congregation
Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society
Suburban Orthodox Congregation
Temple Beth Shalom
Temple Isaiah
Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 890 Early Childhood Education-Child Care Providers Support Grant Program (The Child Care Provider Support Act)

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee February 25, 2021 SUPPORT

Background: Senate Bill 890 (SB890) would establish a \$25 million dollar grant program starting in FY23 for Early Childhood Centers (ECC) and other childcare providers who have financially struggled or closed due to the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Grants could be used for payroll, rent or mortgage and other similar expenses outlined in the bill. Entities would have to show a specified financial loss in order to be eligible. The state would also prioritize grant recipients from high poverty zip-codes and zip-codes where a significant number of licensed centers have closed.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents that Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies, including the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Baltimore (JCC's). The JCC's have two early childhood centers, one of which has been closed since the beginning of the pandemic. The economic impact has been great for not only our JCC's but for several other ECC's in the Jewish community, including centers attached to our synagogues. To give a snapshot of the impact, the Owings Mills JCC in FY20 (June 19-July 20) had a revenue, not profit, of \$1.9 million, whereas the projected revenue for FY21 is \$1.4 million (with the help of the Federal PPP) and the Park Heights JCC, which remains closed, had an FY20 revenue of about \$1 million and will have \$0 for FY21. On top of that, the Owings Mills JCC has increased costs including \$25,000 for PPE, additional teacher costs, employer paid medical for furloughed staff and unemployment costs related to the staff that were furloughed and not hired back. Without assistance, many childcare centers are not going to be able to make it to the end of the pandemic, in fact 16% of childcare centers in our state have already closed. When Covid-19 is eventually under control, and parents and guardians are expected to physically go back to the office, we are going to need childcare centers. This is particularly true for women and single parents who will be forced out of the workforce if there is no readily available childcare. Providing financial support to childcare providers should be an instrumental part of our state's Covid relief package.

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB980.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

OFFICERS

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American Israel Public Affairs Committee

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American Zionist Movement

Amit Women

Association of Reform Zionists of America

Baltimore Board of Rabbis

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance

Baltimore Men's ORT

Baltimore Zionist District

Beth Am Congregation

Beth El Congregation

Beth Israel Congregation

Beth Shalom Congregation of

Howard County

Beth Tfiloh Congregation

B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region

B'nai Israel Congregation

B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation

Bolton Street Synagogue

Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.

Chevrei Tzedek Congregation

Chizuk Amuno Congregation

Congregation Beit Tikvah

Congregation Beth Shalom of

Carroll County

Congregation Tiferes Yisroel

Federation of Jewish Women's

Organizations of Maryland

Hadassah

Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation

J Street

Jewish Federation of Howard County

Jewish Labor Committee

Jewish War Veterans

Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary

Jewish Women International

Jews For Judaism

Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah

Hebrew Congregation

National Council of Jewish Women

Ner Tamid Congregation

Rabbinical Council of America

Religious Zionists of America

Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation

Shomrei Emunah Congregation

Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society

Suburban Orthodox Congregation

Temple Beth Shalom

Temple Isaiah

Zionist Organization of America

Baltimore District



Testimony Support SB 890 The Child Care Provider S

Uploaded by: Myers, Beth

Position: FAV

Hearing Testimony February 25, 2021
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Service Employees International Union, Local 500, CtW, CLC
Senate Bill 890 – Early Childhood Education – Child Care Provider Support Grant
Program

SUPPORT

I am writing today to speak on behalf of the Service Employees International Union, Local 500 - the collective bargaining representative of home-based child care providers who participate in the Maryland State Child Care Scholarship program to speak in support of the Child Care Provider Support Act, Senate Bill 890. SEIU Local 500 represents over 20,000 working people in Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia. Our union represents the support staff at the Montgomery County Public School system, Staff and Faculty at several colleges and universities, staff at non-profits and many other working parents.

When Maryland needed Child Care for essential employees, Child Care providers stepped up. With little information and many concerns about their own health and safety, as well as the health and safety of their families, Child Care providers were there for Maryland's families in the first days of the pandemic. The implementation of the essential child care plan was chaotic and difficult for many providers to navigate. Yet providers continued to make sure the doctors, nurses, grocery store employees and others had a safe place for their children. And with the cuts in the number of children they were able to have in their care, many providers were providing care despite losing money every day they were open. Consequently, throughout the state of Maryland, Child Care providers who opened their door during the pandemic are struggling to make up for the lost income during 2020.

And that is only half of the story. Some providers who have pre-existing conditions or family members with health concerns made a difficult decision to not re-open or not provide child care until the pandemic was better controlled in Maryland. They have had little to no support during this year of challenges. Many were locked out of the unemployment system and stayed up until all hours trying to get a call back from an unresponsive and overwhelmed system. At the same time, most family childcare providers were locked out of the Paycheck Protection Programs because of payroll requirements or other small business rules that eliminated these small women-owned businesses.

We are calling on the legislature to support the Child Care Provider Support Act, SB 890 to save our state's vital childcare infrastructure. As a union that represents 20,000 working people in the region, we know that working families repeatedly tell us that child care is one of their biggest hurdles. And as a union that represents education professionals, most of whom are women, we know that this burden falls primarily on women. We must also not forget that the family child care providers themselves are small businesswomen who are vital to the success of their neighborhoods.

If we want Maryland to re-open and survive the pandemic, we must support Child Care providers. With schools and most camps closed indefinitely, and vulnerable family members unable to provide support like before, child care has never been more critical. In a country where 40% of our labor forces has children under the age of 18, resuming economic activity — particularly for women who still tend to shoulder the lion's share of care giving responsibilities —

will depend on addressing the need for child care.

SEIU Local 500 would like to say a special thank you to Delegate Jared Solomon and Senator Nancy King for their leadership on this critical issue. **We ask for your support for SB 890 and strongly urge a favorable committee report.**

MD Catholic Conference_SB 890_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: O'Day, Garrett

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

February 25, 2021

SB 890

**Early Childhood Education - Child Care Provider Support Grant Program
(The Child Care Provider Support Act)**

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 890. The Conference represents the public policy interests of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington and the Diocese of Wilmington, which together encompass over one million Marylanders.

Senate Bill 890 would establish a grant program through the Maryland Department of Commerce to support Maryland's child care providers, many of whom are beleaguered by the coronavirus pandemic. In order to be eligible for a grant, the bill requires that a program have already been in existence at the start of the pandemic and be currently open and operational and in good standing with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Furthermore, grants will be limited to child care providers who have experienced a loss in enrollment of at least 20% for a period of at least two months of the pandemic.

These grants would provide much needed support to a vital and essential sector of Marylander's everyday lives. Sixteen percent of providers have been forced to close their doors in Maryland since early 2020, leading to less options for child care access for working families. With the passage of this bill, pandemic-afflicted child care providers will be able to use grants to pay for such items as rent or mortgage expenses, utilities and payroll, helping to keep providers employed and afloat in this difficult time.

Child Care is an essential component to supporting strong, economically secure families. Additionally, the Church supports this bill as a part of its priority interest in alleviating poverty in our state, as enabling working parents' continued access to child care services is an imperative part of combating poverty. Often, a barrier to sustainable and full-time employment is the availability and affordability of reliable child care services. The State should thus do all it can to support access to child care services for working parents.

The Conference appreciates your consideration, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 890.

(3) MSCCA testimony for SB 890 Child Care Provider

Uploaded by: Peusch, Christina

Position: FAV



***Caring For Maryland's Most
Important Natural Resource¹...***

Maryland State Child Care Association

Christina Peusch
Executive Director
2810 Carrollton Road
Annapolis, MD. 21403
Phone: (410) 820-9196
Email: info@mscca.org
Website: mscca.org

The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is a non-profit, statewide, professional association incorporated in 1984 to promote the growth and development of child care and learning centers in Maryland. MSCCA has over 4500 members and our members provide care and education for Maryland children and support working families. We believe children are our most important natural resources and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

**Testimony Concerning SB 890
ECE-Child Care Provider Support Act
Submitted to: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
February 25, 2021
Position: Support**

MSCCA fully and enthusiastically supports SB 890 and applauds the efforts of Senator King in sponsoring this legislation to take important steps to ensure a critical source of funding for child care providers that will offer support through grants as the State reopens and their enrollment capacity increase. The grants may be used for payroll expenses, rent or mortgage payments, utility expenses, and other operating costs, including PPE, cleaning supplies which have skyrocketed in price. MSCCA also supports the innovative solutions for distributing grants through Department of Commerce as MSDE does not have an efficient system in place to ensure timely distribution of critical grant funds.

MSDE data shows there were 7, 858 licensed providers pre-pandemic in March 2020. As of December 2020, MSDE shows that currently 6, 577 licensed providers have completed a form and been approved to reopen to serve children and families. There are 977 that have not submitted a form to reopen yet and in Feb. 2021, MSDE reports 500 licensed programs have permanently closed. Little investments have been made to help families with access, equity and affordability of child care services in our State before the pandemic hit. In the wake of COVID, the loss of businesses and therefore the loss of thousands of slots is deeply concerning. Significant closures conveys less choice for families and possibly less affordable choices. Families will suffer a shortage of child care when they need or believe it is safe to go back to work. Senator King understands we need state investments to support child care. The programs that are currently open serve roughly 45-55 percent of our historic capacity. Our members are small businesses and often minority women dominated. Our essential services enable Maryland's economy to flourish. When the State shutdown, thousands of our licensed programs remained open, many risking their own health to serve families and save their businesses. We are all concerned about the future of child care and the workforce. In the best of times, the America's child care industry operates on razor-slim margins. Providers have high fixed costs and important teacher-to-child ratios that cap revenue capacity. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our providers have faced catastrophic reductions in children served while fixed costs were unchanged and additional expenses incurred due CDC guidelines for child care.

Experts conveyed to Congress child care would need 50 billion dollars infused to states to recover from losses due to pandemic. Congress recently approved 10 billion. Maryland will not get enough federal funds to recover fully. SB 890 will help in the effort to secure critical grants from the state to child care programs in the future.

While our programs remain on the brink of financial ruin, endangering the broader Maryland economy, we believe the grant system initiated by the state government can help stabilize our programs and build a stronger child care and early childhood education infrastructure for the future.

Child care is essential and Maryland should not only depend on only federal dollars to recover and rebuild a system which provides a public good through primarily small businesses.

It is time to recover, rebuild, provide necessary supports and stabilize child care, which ultimately benefits working families, children and Maryland's economy.

MSCCA urges a favorable committee report.

SB 890 FAV_ACY_MRock.pdf

Uploaded by: Rock, Melissa

Position: FAV



To: The Honorable Chair, Senator Paul G. Pinsky, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and
The Honorable Chair, Senator Guy Guzzone, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

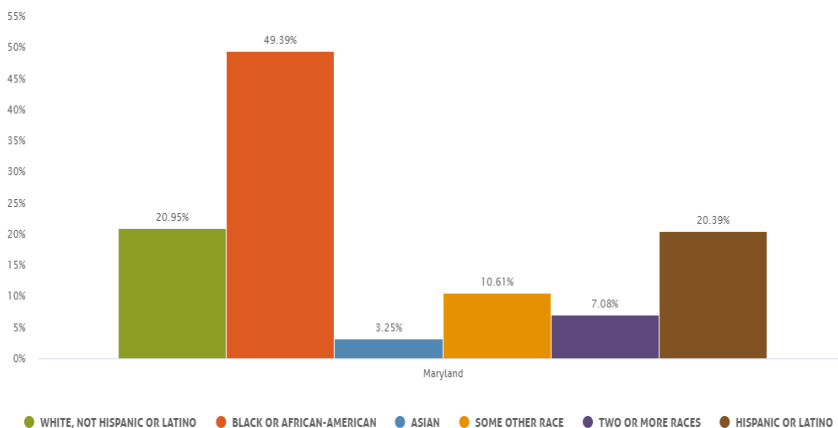
From: Melissa S. Rock, Birth to Three Strategic Initiative Director

Re.: **SB 890: Early Childhood Education - Child Care Provider Support Grant Program (The Child Care Provider Support Act)**

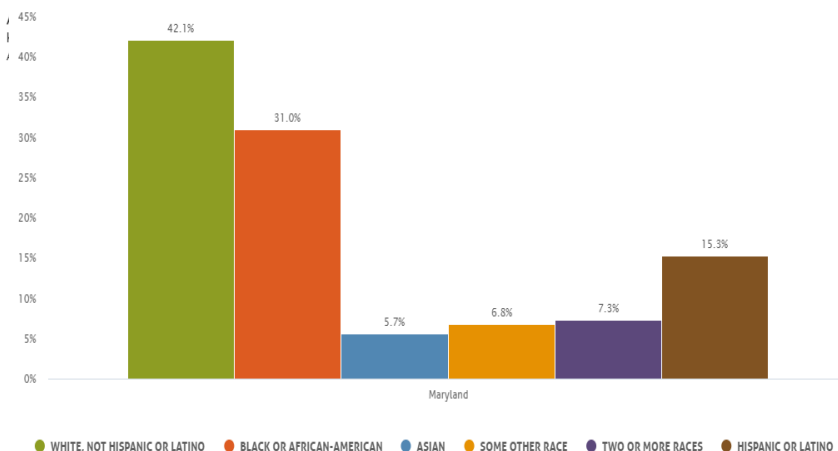
Date: February 25, 2021

Position: **SUPPORT**

Maryland's childcare field is one of the industries that has suffered significant financial losses due



Child Poverty Status By Race (Percent) - 2019



Child Population By Race/Ethnicity (Percent) - 2019

Advocates for Children and Youth
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even before the pandemic, Maryland's childcare system faces significant systemic sustainability issues. Despite families spending significant portions of their income on childcare (especially for the youngest babies), childcare providers are largely low wage workers who do not even receive benefits. Most childcare providers, especially family-based or in-home providers have very thin margins between their income and their expenses. In Maryland, as of June 30, 2019, there were 6,917 licensed childcare providers (5,360 home-based childcare providers and 1,557 center-based providers).¹ As of May 8th, 2020, only 55% (or 3,778) of those childcare providers were caring for children.² Maryland Family Network (MFN) surveyed Maryland's licensed childcare providers in May 2020, and received responses from 41.6% of Maryland's providers (both family based and center based childcare providers).³ Their survey indicated that "67% of childcare providers lost revenue due to COVID-19."⁴

¹ https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/2020_MFN_Demographics.pdf at p. 5.

² <https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/2020%20MFN%20Caring%20During%20Covid%20%28bg%29%201.3%20Pages%5B1%5D.pdf> at p. 3.

³ Id.

⁴ Id. at p. 5.



The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) does not share any disaggregated data showing the race/ethnicity of childcare providers or young child attending licensed childcare programs. Therefore, we do not have the data to show what, if any, racial and or ethnic disparities there were in childcare supply. However, we do know that Maryland has significant racial and ethnic disparities in rates of poverty among Maryland's children.⁵ If there were no disparities by race or ethnicity, the two graphs above would look the same, but as you see Black and Latinx children are significantly over-represented among Maryland's children experiencing poverty. There is every reason to believe that many of the same systemic factors causing those racial disparities in rates of child poverty would also lead to Black and Latinx childcare providers facing the greatest economic challenges covering their expenses and staying open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

MFN's survey respondents overwhelmingly indicated the need for financial support both to stay open or to re-open.⁶ That financial support for childcare providers is exactly what Senate Bill 890 provides. Licensed childcare providers that were in operation before March 2020, accept childcare vouchers, and can demonstrate financial losses throughout the time of the COVID-19 are eligible to apply for grants to close some of their financial gaps and help them re-open or stay open. While there needs to be systemic changes to how Maryland's childcare system is structured, including an infusion of public funding, in the meantime SB 890 is a critical bill to help ensure Maryland's childcare supply isn't further depleted putting more families with young children at risk of not having access to high quality childcare. **We respectfully request that these committees issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 890.**

⁵ <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/103-child-population-by-race?loc=22&loct=2#detailed/2/22/false/1729/68,69,67,12,70,66,71,72/423,424> & <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/8538-child-poverty-status-by-race?loc=22&loct=2#detailed/2/any/false/1729/4406,3303,3304,2161,3305,3306,3307,3301,4551/17225,17226>

⁶ Id.

MAREE Testimony on SB890 Favorable Senate EHEA.pdf

Uploaded by: Ruffins, Robert

Position: FAV



Chair Paul G. Pinsky, Vice Chair Cheryl C. Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 23rd, 2021

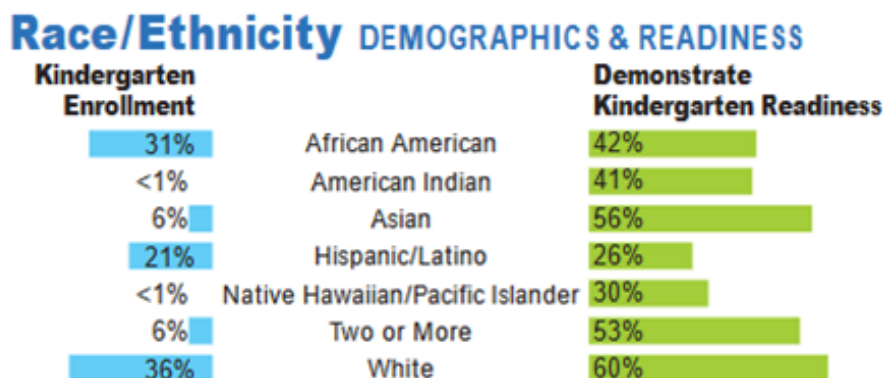
Senate Bill 890: Early Childhood Education - Child Care Provider Support Grant Program (The Child Care Provider Support Act) Favorable

Summary

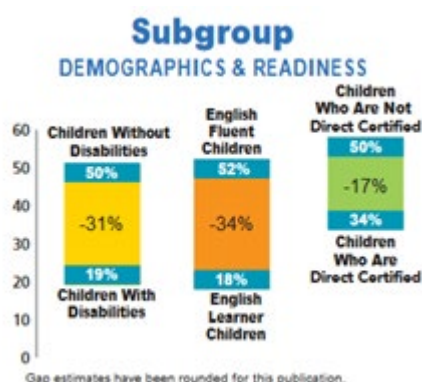
The Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education, a coalition of education advocacy, civil rights, and community-based organizations that are committed to eliminating racial disparities in Maryland's education system, asks the committee to ensure that every young child – especially children of color, dual language learners, children from low-income families, and children with disabilities – has access to high-quality early care and education (ECE). 51% of Maryland's population lives in a childcare desert (that is, an area where there are more than three children under age five for each licensed childcare seat)ⁱ. Of the families that can access childcare, the average annual tuition for a family with two children is \$24,980, or 26% of an average family's income.ⁱⁱ Maryland's public preschool program meets only 7 of 10 quality benchmarks according to the National Institute for Early Education Research, and it serves only 27% of Latino children and 28% of Black children.ⁱⁱⁱ Inequitable access to quality ECE contributes to large disparities in academic preparedness before students enter kindergarten. The COVID19 pandemic is widening these disparities by closing ECE centers and increasing the costs of childcare for families. Senate Bill 890 provides critical funds to support ECE centers in low-income communities, and MAREE urges the committee to give the bill a favorable report.

Racial disparities in academic preparation begin before kindergarten.

Data from 2019-2020 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Report shows profound racial and socio-economic inequities.^{iv} There is a 34-point gap in readiness scores between Latino and White kindergarten students and an 18-point gap between Black and White students. There is also a 34% gap in readiness scores between English fluent kindergarten students and students who are English learners. These are bigger gaps than the sizable gap between children from low-income families and children from higher-income families (17 points). These disparities impact students throughout their academic careers and are unsustainable for the state. (See graph X for data for Black, American Indian, Asian, Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children, and children of two more race/ethnicities. See Graph Y for data on other demographic categories)



Graph X. From 2019-2020 KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT REPORT



Graph Y. From 2019-2020 KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Why additional resources are needed due to COVID19 to prevent gaps from widening.

A survey from the National Association for the Education of Young Children shows that the pandemic is decreasing access to ECE.^v Nationally, 70% of childcare centers have reported increased costs for staff, supplies, and personal protective equipment (PPE). Tuition increases to make up for these costs have left many families unable to afford ECE. According to NAEYC “for a household with two children in childcare, these tuition increases would result in families paying an additional \$2,112 to \$2,760 per year” and “for a family of four living at the poverty level, the tuition increase alone would amount to 8-11% of their annual income”.^{vi} Revenues are down 49% due to enrollment losses, and 86% of ECE providers are serving fewer students. Many providers have closed, and 40% of providers in NAEYC’s survey say they will close permanently. Moreover, ECE providers of color and families of color seem to be hurt most severely.^{vii}

Local reporting suggests that as of September 2020, 2,000 licensed childcare providers have shuttered in Maryland.^{viii} By passing SB890, Maryland can prevent further loss in access to ECE. Additional state support would reduce the need for tuition increases by helping providers cover operating costs, staff wages and benefits, rent, utilities, insurance, and PPE.^{ix} Moreover, SB890 specifically targets funds to low-income communities. It is critical the state conducts outreach to

raise awareness about the grant. Smaller programs with less administrative capacity will also need technical assistance to have a fair chance of successfully applying. The General Assembly could further support ECE providers by connecting them to state-based business supports and relief funding throughout the pandemic.

There is a significant research base confirming the benefit of quality affordable ECE. Maryland has an opportunity and responsibility to address these inequities for both the short-term recovery and long-term success of Maryland's youngest learners and their families. MAREE strongly encourages the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to give SB890 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

The Members of MAREE

ⁱ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2019/09/16/474487/early-learning-united-states-2019/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2019/09/16/474487/early-learning-united-states-2019/>

ⁱⁱⁱ https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Maryland_YB2019.pdf

^{iv} https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/4/200178_ready5_book_web.pdf

^v https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/blog/raise_tuition_or_close.naeyc.pdf

^{vi} https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/our-work/public-policy-advocacy/naeyc_policy_familiespaytheprice.pdf

^{vii} https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/our-work/public-policy-advocacy/naeyc_policy_crisis_coronavirus_december_survey_data.pdf

^{viii} <https://www.nbcwashington.com/investigations/thousands-of-local-child-care-centers-closed-due-to-covid-19/2406310/>

^{ix} https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/our-work/public-policy-advocacy/naeyc_policy_familiespaytheprice.pdf

SB890 - MoCo Chamber - The Child Care Provider Sup

Uploaded by: Swanson, Tricia

Position: FAV



To Lead, Advocate, and Connect as the Voice of Business

Senate Bill 890 - The Child Care Provider Support Act

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 25, 2021

SUPPORT

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), as the voice of Montgomery County business, strongly supports Senate Bill 890. This bill would create an appropriation of \$25 million to provide funds to eligible grantees to help support the operations of childcare centers in Maryland.

Our Chamber and its members have long advocated for a strong childcare system – understanding that childcare facilities are they themselves, a business, but also because of how much this industry impacts our parental workforce. Prior to COVID-19, the Chamber sought its Board of Directors thought leadership and asked them what their top concern as a business leader was and there was one answer that emerged over any other - even with the incredible diversity in size and industry on the MCCC Board of Directors. The answer that emerged was attraction and retention of top talent. When the Chamber dove into that more and asked what employees concerned about, reliable and affordable childcare quickly emerged as a front runner.

There is a true economic cost of unreliable childcare employee absences and turnover due to childcare costs employers \$2.41 billion, it reduces the State's economic output by \$1.28 billion, and reduced Maryland tax revenue by \$117 million in 2016.

When COVID-19 hit, the importance of childcare was only further highlighted. A few months ago, MCCC held a Chamber Chat webinar on the topic of childcare and COVID-19. In this webinar, over 120 local businesses tuned in and one theme that emerged was the need for public funding to support this vital industry. Even if every resident were able to get a vaccine tomorrow, if child cannot go to a safe and reliable childcare center, employees will not be able to return to the workplace.

Beyond COVID-19, a strong and reliable childcare system in the state should be viewed as an economic development recruitment tool. To compete for talent with our surrounding jurisdictions and across the nation, Maryland must differentiate ourselves in the market. Childcare should absolutely be a part of that discussion as our state has done incredible work in the area of childcare accessibility and affordability.

For the aforementioned reasons, the Chamber strongly supports Senate Bill 890 and respectfully urges a favorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our nearly 400 members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

Tricia Swanson, Vice President, Government Relations
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
301-738-0015 www.mcccmd.com

SB 890_FAV_MFN_Weeldreyer.pdf

Uploaded by: Weeldreyer, Laura

Position: FAV



Testimony Concerning SB 890
“Early Childhood Education - Child Care Provider Support Grant Program
(The Child Care Provider Support Act)”
Submitted to the Senate Budget & Taxation and
Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committees
February 25, 2021

Position: Favorable

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports SB 890, which would establish a grant program to support the development and expansion of child care centers and family child care homes. The grants would be targeted to programs that have experienced pandemic-related financial hardship with the critical goal of helping the child care sector emerge from this crisis and play its indispensable role in Maryland’s economic recovery.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and early childhood education, as well as other supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on child care policy and are strongly committed to ensuring that children, along with their parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.

Child care providers have been called “the workforce behind the workforce.” Their mostly small businesses—which play a preeminent role in enabling parents to earn and children to learn—are struggling for their survival. MFN has conducted two statewide surveys, the first in June 2020 and a second that has just concluded this week, preliminary findings from which are noted here for the first time. In both survey, alarmingly high numbers of programs reported losing revenue in the past year (67% last June, 79% this month). In both surveys, half the providers (49% and 51%, respectively) said they would likely face permanent closure if parents remain reluctant to place their children in group settings for another six months.

Some have already closed permanently. Others remain open, but face the double-barreled crisis of not only drastically reduced enrollment but higher expenses associated with PPE, intensive sanitation, and other health protocols (averaging \$5,300 monthly per site, according to the latest survey). Maryland providers may have managed to keep their doors open thus far, but for too many, their current level of operation is clearly unsustainable.

The slow-motion collapse of child care will pose enormous barriers to resurrecting the economy and getting citizens back to work. Several states have launched direct efforts to sustain child care providers during this period. We commend Maryland’s similar efforts up to this point. But they have been insufficient to meet the ongoing challenge we face. The good news is that even among closed providers, large percentages report that grants to help with fixed costs and other expenses would allow them to reopen.

SB 890 offers a path forward that can stabilize the supply of child care programs, improve access and affordability, enable child care businesses and workers to prosper, and ensure every child has a bright future. Enactment will mean that today's workforce is strong, tomorrow's workforce can grow, and our economy can not only recovery from the current pandemic but can thrive in the years to come.

MFN respectfully urges the Committee's favorable consideration of SB 890.

SB890_StrongFutureMaryland_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Wilkerson, Alice

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 890 (Senator King)
Early Childhood Education – Child Care Provider Support Grant Program
(The Child Care Provider Support Act)
FAVORABLE

February 25, 2021

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

On behalf of Strong Future Maryland, we write in strong support of Senate Bill 890. Strong Future Maryland works to advance bold, progressive policy changes to address systemic inequality and promote a sustainable, just and prosperous future for all Marylanders. We believe this legislation is an important component in the broader effort to make early childhood education and childcare affordable and accessible for every Marylander, especially as we consider the economic impacts of Covid-19.

The support and eventual passage of SB890 will establish the Child Care Provider Support Grant Program, which will allocate \$25,000,000 in grant funding to providers experiencing significant financial strain impacting their ability to enroll and care for children while covering all operational costs. SB890 will require the state to prioritize funding allocation to certain zip codes with high poverty rates and a significant number of childcare providers that have been forced to shutter their doors.

This past November, the Executive Director of Maryland State Childcare Association, Christina Peausch, cited a [National Association for the Education of Young Children survey](#) that reported 87% of child care providers said they anticipated permanently closing within a year if they lost 20% or more of their enrollment.

The [state of Maryland's COVID protocols for childcare providers](#) require that every time a staff member, child, or family member has a confirmed case or exhibits a COVID-19 symptoms, the provider must remain closed through the CDC-regulated quarantine window. These strict guidelines are based on state health metrics and healthcare providers' recommendations -- they are crucial to the effort to keep communities safe and healthy. In the same breath, constant closures have detrimental financial impacts on childcare providers, like many small businesses,

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240-643-0024 | strongfuturemd.org

 @FutureMaryland  @StrongFutureMD

making them largely dependent on government funding to pay employees, rent, and other expenses.

As children across the country face stunted learning outcomes due to the transition to virtual instruction, it is clear that our kids learn best in a classroom. Prioritizing in-person instruction for pre-kindergarten children entering the early, important stages of socio-academic development will shape the trajectory of educational achievement for entire graduating classes. And, as the pandemic-induced recession continues, data has shown that women, especially mothers, have borne a disproportionate share of unemployment claims filed. A report released earlier this month from the Center for American Progress reported that [women have lost 5.4 million jobs](#) during the recession -- one million more losses than men. Enabling women, many of them mothers, reliable and affordable access to childcare can encourage re-entry into the workforce.

In consideration of the future educational outcomes of children enrolled in pre-kindergarten, the livelihoods of childcare service providers, and the critical importance of supporting working mothers, we urge a favorable report on SB890.

John B. King

Alice Wilkerson

Elise Gustafson

Founder & Board Chair

Executive Director

Policy Intern

MMF-Written Testimony-For SB 890.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Adjei, Karen

Position: FWA

montgomery moving forward

mobilizing leaders to solve our biggest problems together
nonprofits / business / philanthropy / government / education / community

February 23, 2021

Esteemed Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation Committees,

Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF), a collective impact initiative of Nonprofit Montgomery, is committed to advancing equitable, accessible systems change in the early care and education (ECE) sector in Montgomery County. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, MMF convened over 50 labor, business, education, philanthropic, and nonprofit leaders in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. This diverse cross-sector Early Care and Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition understands that a resilient early care and education workforce is necessary for our state's economic recovery.

MMF supports SB 890, the Child Care Provider Support Act, which would establish a grant program to provide funds to support the development and expansion of child care programs, and **we support language that extends this grant program to family child care providers as well as center based providers.**

Without this type of support, many child care programs will close, many child care employees will lose their jobs, other employees may have to leave the workforce due to lack of child care, and many children will not receive the quality early learning that they need to succeed in school and beyond.

While the Governor's recent announcement of a one-time \$60 million Pandemic Relief Grant Program for Child Care Providers is important and necessary, the child care sector needs and deserves continuous public investment if it is to develop infrastructure that can withstand future shocks. ECE is an essential component of Maryland's economy and is vital to a thriving and equitable community. It enables working parents to get to work, be it virtually or at home, and be productive knowing their children are supported, learning, and safe. ECE enables employers to attract and retain qualified staff.

However, without sustained help, more ECE providers will close their doors or be forced to raise tuition and fees. According to a recent study by the Maryland Family Network, 67% of child care business owners have experienced a loss in revenue due to closures and mandated reduced attendance, with 60% of them reporting that they will need financial support to survive. As a result, more families will have to choose between their children and their jobs. In Montgomery County, where residents must make at least \$90,000 to make ends meet, families can ill afford to dedicate more of their income to ECE. As more families are faced with leaving the workforce, employers will lack the talent to fuel our rebound. Our families, our children, our economies, and our communities will suffer.

ECE is an economic and social justice imperative and a pillar of Maryland's economy that demands our utmost and immediate investment. **We urge you to give SB890 a favorable report.**

Respectfully and sincerely,

Montgomery Moving Forward Co-Chairs and Members of the Early Care and Education Workforce
Advocacy Coalition

Lindsey Allard Agnamba, CEO, School Readiness Consulting; **Laura Bardini**, Executive Director, Rockville Day Care Association, Inc.; **Kevin Beverly**, Economic Development Advocate; **Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta**, Director, CentroNia; **Bob Buchanan**, Buchanan Partners and 2030 Group; **Jody Burghardt**, Division Director, Children, Youth and Family Services, Sheppard Pratt; **Community Action Board**, Montgomery County; **Ruby Daniels**, Director, Maryland State Family Child Care Association; **Stewart Edelstein**, Education Advocate; **Sharon Friedman**, Director, Montgomery Moving Forward; **Martine Sadarangani Gordon**, Vice President of Programs, Washington Area Women's Foundation; **Michelle Green**, Executive Director, Montgomery Child Care Association; **Joanne Hurt**, Executive Director, Wonders Early Learning + Extended Day; **Tiffany Jones**, Family Childcare Provider; **Christina Lopez**, President, Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC); **Susan Madden**, Montgomery Moving Forward, Co-Chair and Chief Government Relations Officer, Montgomery College; **Benjamin Orr**, President and CEO of the Maryland Center on Economic Policy; **Christina Peusch**, Executive Director, Maryland State Child Care Association; **Laura Weeldreyer**, Executive Director, Maryland Family Network

SB0890-243926-01.pdf

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Position: FWA



SB0890/243926/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

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BY: Senator King

(To be offered in the Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committee and the Budget and Taxation Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 890

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, after line 1, insert:

“(2) “CHILD CARE CENTER” INCLUDES A FAMILY CHILD CARE
HOME AS DEFINED IN § 9.5-301 OF THIS TITLE.”;

in line 2, strike “(2)” and substitute “(3)”; in line 4, after “(II)” insert “1.”; in lines 4 and
5, strike “SEPTEMBER 30, 2020;” and substitute “JULY 1, 2021; OR”; after line 5,
insert:

“2. IS NOT CURRENTLY OPEN AND ENROLLING
CHILDREN BUT CAN CONFIRM ITS INTENTION TO ENROLL CHILDREN NOT MORE
THAN 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH A GRANT IS RECEIVED;”;

in line 11, after the semicolon insert “AND”; strike in their entirety lines 12 through 14,
inclusive; in line 15, strike “(VIII)” and substitute “(VII)”; and in line 18, strike “(3)”
and substitute “(4)”.

SB890 Sponsor Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: King, Senator Nancy

Position: FWA

NANCY J. KING
Legislative District 39
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 890 – Early Childhood Education – Child Care Provider Support Grant

February 25, 2021

Mister Chairman and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation Committees:

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a devastating toll on our state's child care providers. According to a recent study by Maryland Family Network, 51% of the 8,000 child care programs in the state may close if families continue to keep children home during the pandemic. The study also indicated that overall, 67% of child care business owners have experienced a loss in revenue due to closures and reduced attendance and 60% of child care centers reported that they need financial support to survive.

The child care industry is critical to our state's recovery and to family financial stability. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce reports that from June to October of 2020, two out of three working parents changed their child care arrangements due to COVID-19. 23% of currently employed parents reported that they will likely have to quit their job if adequate child care arrangements cannot be made; 34% reported that they will need to reduce hours and 26% said they will need to find a new job. All of these statistics disproportionately effect women.

Senate Bill 890 will establish a grant program in the Department of Commerce (in consultation with the State Department of Education) to provide funds to support the development and expansion of child care programs. To be eligible for a grant, a child care provider must:

- Be in operation before March 2020;
- Be open and operational on or after September 30, 2020;
- Have a certificate of good standing in the state;
- Accept state scholarship vouchers; or
- Can demonstrate financial stress of disruption in operation, including the loss of 20% of enrollment for a period of at least 2 months from March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Grant awards may be used by eligible grantees only for the following purposes:

- Payroll expenses
- Rent or mortgage expenses
- Utility expenses; and
- Other similar expenses necessary for the operation of child care programs

I am also offering amendments to clarify that the child care provider support grant is available to all child care providers including center-based and family child care programs and to programs who have closed or struggle to remain open due to the pandemic.

The child care industry needs support to survive this economic crisis. Providing financial and other supports for child care will stabilize the system, allow the industry to recover and rebuild, and ensure working parents can continue working thus helping our state's economy to recover and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 890.

SB 890 Child Care Provider Support Grant (King) EH

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor



DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 890 Early Childhood Education – Child Care Provider Support Grant Program (King)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 25, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 890 creates a Child Care Provider Support Grant Program in the State Department of Education (MSDE), which is administered by the Department of Commerce (Commerce), in consultation with MSDE. The bill mandates an annual appropriation in the amount of \$25 million for grants to child care centers that meet specific criteria, including: were in operation before March 2020; are open and operational after Sept 30, 2020; are enrolled in EXCELS; can demonstrate loss of at least 20% in enrollment (for a period of at least 2 mos. between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021) causing financial distress; and is not currently enrolling children, but can do so within 30 days of receiving a grant. A grant application process is to be established by Commerce and maximum grant awards cannot exceed two months of operating expenses of the grantee.

EXPLANATION: In response to the COVID pandemic, in FY 2020, the State dedicated \$95.4 million to the Emergency Personnel Child Care (EPCC) program in FY 2020. In addition, the state continued to pay for children participating in the Child Care Scholarship Program based on enrollment, rather than attendance through the end of FY 2020, to ensure participating providers continued to receive payments when enrollment declined as a result of COVID-19. In FY 2021 (as of 12/21/20), an additional \$3.6 million was spent for EPCC program.

Through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, Maryland received additional federal funding to support child care for children and families. MSDE is establishing a \$60 million grant program to support eligible child care programs throughout the State to help meet operating costs and address lost revenue. On February 14, 2021, Governor Hogan announced that licensed child care centers and registered family child care providers are eligible to apply for Child Care Pandemic Relief Fund grants to help meet increased operation costs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The online grant application must be completed by March 3, 2021. For more information: <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org>

The \$25 million appropriation contained in the bill is a permanent mandate, despite the funding being directed to specific child care providers that experienced a significant, but temporary reduction in enrollment because of COVID-19.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
(410) 260-6371 or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov**