

SB711- MoCo Support- Andrews Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrews, Barbara

Position: FAV



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D.
Director

March 9, 2021

SB 711

Hon. Paul Pinsky
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today in favor of SB711: The Family Child Care Pilot Act. For the record I am Barbara Andrews, Administrator of Early Childhood Services in the Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County, and Interim Policy Officer. This act is modeled after a recruitment program developed by our Child Care Resource and Referral Center or CCRR which is part of the State CCRR Network managed by Maryland Family Network.

The program, Growing Opportunities in Family Child Care or GO FCC!, was developed several years ago as we saw regulated family child care programs (FCC) reducing over the years. When I started in my role nine years ago there were 1,100 FCC homes in Montgomery County and there are now 740. This is a statewide issue. With the inception of our County's Early Care and Education Initiative we set specific outcomes for the program, hired dedicated bi-lingual staff and created a cohort model with one-on-one and small group support, added bilingual peer to peer mentors and were able to exceed the recruitment goal for 50 new registered FCC homes in the first year of the initiative (2019-2020) and add 59. With the dedicated staff support and the cohort model we reduced the time to achieve registration from 9-12 months to 4-6 months. The cohort approach provides support for small groups on business supports (including the development of a business plan), program enhancement and accreditation, and support for Maryland EXCELS and the Credentialing system. Through our partnerships in the County and with MFN and MSDE we were able to maximize the support for providers and achieve the set goals.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic we have focused our efforts on supports and retention of registered FCC while helping providers reach higher levels of quality. Even with the

Department of Health and Human Services

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www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

limitations of the pandemic we have used this model to recruit and register four more providers in the last few months.

The Go FCC! Model can be beneficial across the state and we look forward to learning how other jurisdictions approach recruitment and retention for family child care. I have attached two slides to this testimony that outlines the cohort approach to recruitment and to retention.

Enclosure: Family Child Care Recruitment Efforts Slides

Department of Health and Human Services

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www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs



Month 1: Introduction

Orientation & Initial Application
Personal and Business Assessment
Participate in GO FCC! Training Course



Month 2: Business Set-Up

Inspections and Appointments
Business Counseling
Initiate Business Plan
Submit MSDE-OCC Application Packet



Month 3: Program Set-Up

Assign Peer Mentor (*Ambassador*)
Set-Up Environment
Determine Curriculum Framework
Create Program Policies and Procedures



Month 4: Final

“Tie Lose Ends”
Final MSDE-OCC Inspection
Wait for Registration to Implement Business Plan

Family Child Care Recruitment Efforts



G R O W I N G
FAMILY CHILD CARE
O P P O R T U N I T I E S



Phase 1: Business Establishment

Establish Business Entity
Implement Marketing Plan
Association & Networking
Goalsetting with Peer Mentor



Phase 2: Professional Plan

Publish in MD EXCELS
Participate in MD Child Care
Credential
Select Career Pathway



Phase 3: Program Enhancement

Child Care Health Consultation
Environmental and Teaching
Assessments
Complete Program Improvement
Plan



Phase 4: Accreditation

Move up MD EXCELS
Move up MD Child Care Credential
Implement Program Improvement Plan



G R O W I N G
FAMILY CHILD CARE
O P P O R T U N I T I E S

Family Child Care Retention Efforts*

**Process can take between 1-2 years*

SB 711_FAV_MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Bailey, Angelica

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 9, 2021

Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Bill: _____ SB 711 Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program - Established

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 711, which would establish a pilot program to establish and support new child care providers in underserved communities throughout the state. This program would assist with funding and work with local governments to target and support potential new child care providers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how crucial child care is, especially for our essential workers. MML appreciates the establishment of this program, especially its focus on increasing child care in low-income areas through partnership with local governments.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 711 and respectfully requests a favorable committee report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott A. Hancock	Executive Director
Angelica Bailey	Director, Government Relations
Bill Jorch	Director, Research and Policy Analysis
Justin Fiore	Manager, Government Relations

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SB 711 Oral Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: DANIELS, RUBY

Position: FAV



Maryland State Family Child Care Association

www.msfccca.org

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

Ruby Daniels
Email: rubygd33@gmail.com
Phone: 410-531-5159 | 443-538-7829

SB0711 - 03.09.21--Growing Family Child Care Oppor

Uploaded by: Fry, Donald

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 711 – GROWING FAMILY CHILD CARE OPPORTUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED

Sponsor – Senator King

March 9, 2021

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports Senate Bill 711, which would establish the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program in the State Department of Education. The program would provide grants to local jurisdictions to establish and support pilot programs intended to increase the supply of family child care providers in areas with above average rates of poverty and unemployment or areas with a lack of available child care providers.

The GBC has been actively involved in supporting businesses as they weather the ill effects of the pandemic, restrictions placed on business operations, and the resulting negative economic impact on businesses. To address the challenges and to assist businesses to recover the Greater Baltimore Committee created the GBC COVID-19 Business Recovery Advisory Council, comprised of regional business executives, with a mission to provide assistance, develop programs, and to make policy recommendations to benefit businesses recover from the pandemic, with a particular focus on small and minority-owned businesses. One of the recommendations of the advisory council called for the GBC and its member companies to advocate for state and local governments to address the immediate shortage and to create long-term solutions pertaining to child care through targeted policy or funding initiatives.

There is an urgent need to ensure that adequate high-quality child care is available for the children of Maryland's workforce. Increasing the number of licensed child care providers is integral to the state's business ecosystem. Without affordable and dependable child care options, Maryland's workforce is challenged to perform their employment responsibilities and duties to maximum capacity and capabilities resulting in loss of production in business operations.

Senate Bill 711 is consistent with the Greater Baltimore Committee's *2021 Legislative Priorities*, which calls for policy, funding, and regulatory solutions to accelerate economic recovery with an emphasis on support for small and minority-owned businesses.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 711.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 66-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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SB711 3-9-21.pdf

Uploaded by: Hancock, Rebecca

Position: FAV



**Testimony Concerning SB 711 – Growing Family Child Care
Opportunities Pilot Program – Established
Submitted to Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 9, 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 remained open to essential personnel during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Family child care providers care for approximately 50% of all children in Maryland under the age of two in small mixed-age group settings. It is a unique learning environment flexible enough to meet each child's needs individually and the special relationships formed by children of various ages in family child care enhances the learning experience for all.

Over the years there has been a significant decline in existing family child care programs and an increased number have closed recently due to the pandemic. It is important to note that family child care providers are almost always women and a significant number are minorities and/or single family households. In 1996 there were 12, 500 registered Family Child Care Providers in Maryland. As of January 2020, there were 5,091 and as of February 2021 that number dropped again to 4,345, that's a recent decrease of 14.65%. At the rate family child care is declining in Maryland, what is now a significant shortage could become a child care crisis in the future.

MSFCCA is deeply concerned about this decline. Though there are multiple reasons for it, a lack of financial consistency is a significant concern to many that have left the profession. MSFCCA endorses any legislative actions that would facilitate expanding the availability of new registered Family Child Care Programs to serve Maryland families. SB 711, the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program, would provide grant funding to local jurisdictions for a 2-year

pilot program that would help establish quality family child care programs. Families having access to high-quality affordable child care is essential and targeting these programs for the above average poverty areas of urban, suburban and rural locations would help further equitable child care access across Maryland. In addition this Bill would support early education career pathways for women and minorities by allowing them to better financially support their families. The success of this Pilot Program would be evaluated December 1, 2021, and each year thereafter to continue building a more sustainable workforce of caregivers. Ample child care programs are critical to Maryland's infrastructure and our ability to create a strong and healthy economy.

Maryland has been a consistent leader in early care and education policy and giving SB 711 a favorable vote will begin the process of saving an industry that is vitally important to families and the future economy. MSFCCA appreciates the opportunity to comment on this legislation and welcomes any questions or comments. 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.

SB0711-EHE_MACo-SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Jabin, Drew

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 711

Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program - Established

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committees

Date: March 9, 2021

From: Drew Jabin

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 711. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact families in Maryland, access to affordable, safe child care opportunities is critically important. SB 711 would provide a fair, reasonable, and welcome framework to expand access to child care grants.

This bill would create the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program under the State Department of Education (the Department) with the purpose of awarding grants to establish and support child care programs. There are 13 child care licensing regions, designated by the Department, providing licensing and oversight for family child care programs across all Maryland counties. This bill would require the Department to partner with the Maryland Child Care Resource Network to award grants to local jurisdictions or the child care licensing regions within urban, suburban, and rural areas across the state.

Maryland county governments all have a common goal of providing for the health and wellbeing of children in their community, and this bill creates a new funding resource to encourage affordable, quality child care across all jurisdictions. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 711 and requests a **FAVORABLE** report.

MAP - SB 711 - FAVORABLE.pdf

Uploaded by: Jefferson , Stacey

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 711

Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program - Established

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

March 9, 2021

Submitted by Stacey Jefferson and Julia Gross, Co-Chairs

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
Mental Health Association of
Maryland
Paul's Place
Public Justice Center
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore
Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

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Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly supports SB 711. This bill would establish the "Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program" to increase and sustain the supply of family child care. A family child care home is typically operated by a provider in her own residence. The provider undergoes background checks, a prescribed course of training, and safety inspections prior to being licensed. Group size cannot exceed eight children, with no more than two children under age 2. Family child care homes are regulated by MSDE's Office of Child Care.

Expanding the supply of registered family child care providers would provide low-income working families in underserved communities more high quality early child care options. Low-income working parents face several challenges related to work schedules (greater likelihood to have part time work, to work nontraditional hours, to have fluctuating schedules) that may make family child care more appealing. When choosing child care, parents balance decisions about location, cost, and availability with multiple work and family factors. For low income working families, choices may be constrained by limited resources.

Research indicates characteristics of the care setting and of the caregiver, as well as the availability, accessibility, and affordability of the provider, are important to parents, and parents often made decisions based on these issues. According to Maryland Family Network's 2021 Child Care Demographics, the average weekly cost of full-time family child care is less than care provided in a child care center.

Montgomery County's program, on which the pilot would be based, was designed to expand the supply of registered family child care providers in underserved communities and to encourage the participation of women who might face barriers to becoming registered has shown remarkable success. Program activities include outreach to marginalized communities, including those in which English is not the primary languages, mentoring, some financial incentives, and consultation on best business practices. Results have included a major reduction in the time it takes to get licensed, from up to a year down to approximately four months. Piloting this program in other jurisdictions could help expand the supply of quality child care while supporting the efforts of low-income women--many in communities of color--to establish successful small businesses.

MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 711.

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.

SB0711_FAV_City of Rockville_Growing Family Child

Uploaded by: Kasemeyer, Pam

Position: FAV



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
SB 711 – Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program - Established
Support**

The Mayor and Council are thankful to Chairman Pinsky and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for the opportunity to share written comments on SB 711 – Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Established. The Rockville Mayor and Council support this legislation. We thank Senator King for her leadership to bring this measure forward.

Advocating for State financial support for childcare services is a Mayor and Council priority. High-quality childcare for children in the early years is a critical factor in healthy child development. Further, it is foundational to a family's economic well-being. Rockville and Montgomery County are concerned about the declining number of licensed home child-care providers, and whether or not existing businesses can survive the economic uncertainty resulting from the global pandemic. SB 711 supports this need by establishing the Growing Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program in the Maryland State Department of Education and enhancing local pilot programs in the State.

SB 711 is in alignment with Montgomery County's Early Care and Education Initiative goals (ECE) to support the expansion of home-based early care and education (ECE) seats; increase access and affordability to quality ECE; enhance the sustainability of existing ECE programs; and establish community partnerships that support childcare.

We support the provisions in SB 711 that strengthen home-based childcare as follows:

- In FY23 and FY24 - award \$150,000 to an urban, suburban, and a childcare licensing region in rural area, for a total of \$450,000.
- Target the use of the grant to increase the supply and ensure the sustainability of family childcare providers with above average rates of poverty and unemployment or areas with a lack of available childcare providers.
- Provide multilingual outreach to recruit individuals to become registered family childcare providers within MSDE.
- Establish partnerships with local chambers of commerce, or other local or State organizations for family childcare providers that support small businesses and women and minority businesses, as specified.
- Provide technical assistance, financial incentives, and start-up assistance for recruited individuals, as they navigate the process of becoming a registered family childcare provider.

We recognize the need for a comprehensive system of high quality, accessible, and affordable early childcare in Maryland. These programs are cost-effective, close education and opportunity gaps, and increase economic benefits. These positive outcomes not only improve the child and family, but also the community, by preparing children for a future of opportunity in a rapidly changing global economy. To prepare our children to reach their full potential, we must build a pathway to success in the early years, during this critical period of brain development. SB 711 is positive public policy that will further these goals by supporting the expansion of high-quality childcare and making it more accessible for working families that need it the most. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide SB 711 with a favorable report and advance it to the Senate floor for a vote.

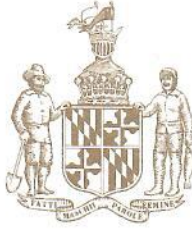
SB711 sponsor testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: King, Senator Nancy

Position: FAV

NANCY J. KING
Legislative District 39
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MAJORITY LEADER



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 711 – Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program - Established

March 9, 2021

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

Even prior to the pandemic, the number of Family Child Care Programs has been on the decline. These programs, which are different from Child Care Centers, are typically owned and run by women who care for up to eight children at a time in their homes. In Maryland the number of these Family Child Care programs have gone from approximately 12,500 in 1996 to 5000 in 2020. This is a trend that is mirrored nationally. The pandemic will likely add to this decline. There are many factors that have contributed to this decline: arduous approval processes through multiple layers of governments, lack of resources and support for their small business, and access to professional development.

In Montgomery County a program was developed to help individuals who want to start a family child care program or need help with an existing program by providing resources not readily available or in some instances not available at all. This highly successful program that was set up with a relatively small budget of \$300,000 for staff, materials, credentialing support and startup assistance, after two years, has helped to create 61 new family child care centers and opened up over 300 new child care slots in some of the highest poverty areas in the county. A majority of these programs are run by individuals whose first language is other than English.

Senate Bill 711 takes this very successful program and sets up a pilot program in the State. Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) will administer the pilot program in concert with the State's network of child care resource centers. The Pilot program grants will be awarded to one urban, one suburban and one rural jurisdiction or child care licensing region, and a local match in funding will be required to secure the State funding. Each jurisdiction that receives an award must target the program's efforts to high-need areas.

Maryland families depend on quality child care to allow parents to keep their jobs and support their families. This legislation supports not only the parents who need care for their children, but Marylanders who are trying to open and run a small business to support their families. Increasing the availability of high-quality child care is integral to the state's economic stability and this is just one way to increase childcare openings in Maryland and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 711.

SB711-EHEA-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Mehu, Natasha

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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

SB 711

March 9, 2021

TO: Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 711 – Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program
POSITION: Support

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 711.

SB 711 establishes the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program in the Department of Education and authorizes the Department to provide grants to local jurisdictions or child care licensing regions to increase the supply and ensure the sustainability of family child care providers in areas with above average rates of poverty and unemployment.

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. Supporting the growth of family 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 711.

Family League SB711 Written Support .pdf

Uploaded by: Millard, Demaune

Position: FAV



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 711

Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Established

To: Chair Paul Pinsky and Members of the Environmental, Health and Education Committee

From: Demaune A. Millard, President & CEO, Family League of Baltimore

Date: March 9, 2020

Family League of Baltimore (Family League) supports SB711 Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Established as it would authorize the Maryland State Department of Education to provide grants to local jurisdictions or child care licensing regions to increase the supply of and ensure sustainability for family child care providers in areas with above average rates of poverty and unemployment.

Family child care providers typically offer a more affordable options for those with limited income who seek quality early childhood education for their young ones. COVID-19 has caused several of these centers to close because they did not have the proper tools or cash reserves to navigate business while in a pandemic. As a result of this challenge, young children missed out on over a year of learning. There was simply nowhere for them to go. Even before the pandemic, the number of family childcare providers was declining. Furthermore, this decline is project to continue through 2025 according to a study by Maryland Family Network¹. If passed, SB711 will serve as an economic development tool by providing adequate supports to prospective operations thereby encouraging more people will be encouraged to open family child care centers.

To be clear, SB711's goal is not just to create more family childcare centers but to have operators who provide quality education and are sustainable. This issue is extremely important for the residents for Baltimore City because of the high number of children in need of a quality start to their educational journey. Oftentimes, residents are reluctant to begin the process of opening family childcare centers because of barriers in place and the time that it takes to start the center. SB711 creates a pilot program that provides grant assistance to establish and support local centers, providing what is needed for children to be ready to enter school. Children are more likely to thrive in small, family childcare centers because of the amount of attention that can be given to each child in this setting. Parents are also likely to feel more comfortable sending their child to a family-run child care center, especially if the center is in the same neighborhood.

As the designated Local Management Board for the City of Baltimore, Family League works collaboratively to support data-informed, community-driven solutions to align resources to dismantle systemic barriers that limit the possibilities for children, families, and communities.

¹ https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/BaltimoreCity_0.pdf. Page 9

Our policy advocacy work is also guided by and in support of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention Youth and Victim Services' Results for Child Well-Being. Through our strategic planning process, we have prioritized three of these results areas, focusing on the success of Baltimore City's children in school; the economic stability of families; and the safety of communities for children, youth, and families. We support SB711 in particular because of its alignment with the result areas that work to ensure "Children Enter School Ready to Learn" and that "Families are Economically Stable."

For more information contact Keontae Kells, Public Policy Assistant kkells@familyleague.org

MD Catholic Conference_SB 711_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: O'Day, Garrett

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 9, 2021

SB 711

Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Established

Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 711. 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 711 would establish a Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program in the Department of Education. Through this bill, MSDE would be afforded the ability to provide grants to local jurisdictions or child care licensing regions to increase the supply and ensure the sustainability of family child care providers in areas with higher numbers of low-income Marylanders.

These grants would provide much needed support to promote growth of a vital and essential sector of Marylander's everyday lives. Sixteen percent of child care 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 would promote new providers to open their doors, thus providing greater access to child care options in Maryland.

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 711.

SB0711 MD NARAL SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Philip, Diana

Position: FAV



SB0711 - Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Established

Presented to Hon. Paul Pinsky and

Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

March 9, 2021 1:00 p.m.

POSITION: SUPPORT

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland urges the Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee **a favorable report on SB0711 - Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Established**, sponsored by Senator Nancy King.

Our organization is an advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice. As part of our efforts to protect reproductive freedom for all Marylanders, we work to ensure every childbearing individual has the right to decide if, when, and how many children to have, and to parent in good health, in safety, and with dignity. In doing so, we support measures that expand access to child care choices for families.

Just over 20% of Maryland workers have a child under the age of five,¹ meaning child care is not just essential to families, but to the economy as well. Families face many obstacles when attempting to secure child care for their children: cost, transportation, lack of needed hours for care, just to name a few. Child care providers also face obstacles to keep their doors open. The average annual wage for family child care providers, in particular, is only \$39,884, which is not reflective of the many business costs of operating a family child care and well below the state average income of \$67,860.²³ What's more, the number of family child care slots has been in decline over the past decade, with the pandemic taking a particularly harsh toll on the child care industry as a whole.

The Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program has the opportunity to focus resources on areas that are in particular need for more child care slots and create jobs and offset costs for new family child care providers. This program has a strong emphasis on sustainability which ensures family child care homes can continue to operate and families can continue to access safe, quality care. We do respectfully request that this program consider what can be done to offer more child care options to parenting students.

Families deserve choices when it comes to accessing child care for their children, and child care providers deserve respect and support for the essential and difficult work they do. The ability to parent with dignity is essential to the realization of reproductive freedom, and being able to access and choose quality and affordable child care is an integral part of providing care with dignity. For these reasons, NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland **urges a favorable committee report on SB0711**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹Counting Our Losses :The Hidden Cost to Marylanders of an Inadequate Child CareSystem, Maryland Family Network, https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/MarylandFamilyNetwork_Countingourlosses_FullReport_Hyperlinked_Singles%20%281%29.pdf. Accessed on 22 February 202.

²Maryland Family Network Public Policy Handbook 2020 – 2021, Maryland Family Network, <https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/Public%20Policy%20Handbook%202020-21.pdf>. Accessed on 22 February 2021.

³County Employment and Wages in Maryland – Second Quarter 2020, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, https://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/news-release/countyemploymentandwages_maryland.htm, Accessed on 22 February 2021.

SB 711_MFN_FAV_Weeldreyer Go FCC.pdf

Uploaded by: Weeldreyer, Laura

Position: FAV



Testimony Concerning SB 711
“Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Established”
Submitted to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 9, 2021

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) strongly supports SB 711, which would establish the “Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program” to increase and sustain the supply of family child care.

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.

Registered family child care is an important part of Maryland's child care delivery system. Family child care providers offer child care that most closely resembles the care that children receive in their own homes. Family child care providers care for many children who have special needs or need care during nontraditional hours. They also provide linguistically and culturally appropriate care within many communities in the State.

Unfortunately, the number of registered family child care providers in Maryland has been declining precipitously for more than two decades, from a high of 12,514 in November 1996 to 5,126 in June 2020. Data analysis by MFN projects a further decrease of about 27% from 2021 to 2025. (See: https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/MFN_Trends_Feb2021%20%20FINAL_0.pdf.) The declining number of family child care homes brings a tremendous degree of unmet need.

Montgomery County's Go FCC! Program was designed to expand the supply of registered family child care providers in underserved communities and to encourage the participation of women who might face barriers to becoming registered. It has demonstrated remarkable success. SB 711 would create pilot programs and attempt to replicate that success in other jurisdictions, ultimately helping expand the supply of quality child care while supporting the efforts of low-income women--many in communities of color--to establish successful small businesses.

For these reasons, we urge your favorable consideration of SB 711.



SB_711_StrongFutureMaryland_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Wilkerson, Alice

Position: FAV



**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 711 (Senator King)
Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program-Established
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
FAVORABLE**

March 9, 2021

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

On behalf of Strong Future Maryland, we write in support of Senate Bill 711. Strong Future Maryland works to advance bold, progressive policy changes to address systemic inequality and promote a sustainable, just, and prosperous economic future for all Marylanders.

It is well established that the first years of a child's life are deemed critical for a child's health, learning, and development. Besides a child's family, child-care providers are influential as they provide necessary experiences for a child's development. According to the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#), 12% of children live in poverty within Maryland, which has improved over the years. Still, we see an increase in young children not receiving education or schooling and not proficient in reading and math levels. This information is quite concerning, and we believe greater access to quality child care programs would help address these issues. The Division of [Early Childhood under the Department of Education for Maryland](#) agrees that child care and early education are crucial for developing social skills, assisting with pre-literacy, and necessary mathematical skills and concepts.

Besides the educational benefits from child care, children's awareness of their environment and social/interpersonal skills are also affected. A study from [the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health](#), most children who attended daycare had better behavior and social skills than children cared for at home. The Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program Act, gives child care facilities the opportunity to grow by giving them the resources needed to provide to Maryland's youth, which benefits them as they mature and get older.

As the COVID-19 Pandemic has shown us, reliable, quality child care is a critical issue for supporting working parents, especially working mothers and essential workers. For these reasons, Strong Future Maryland urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 711.

On behalf of Strong Future Maryland,

John B. King
Founder & Board Chair

Alice Wilkerson
Executive Director

Rachelle Wakefield
Policy Intern

SB 711 Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pil

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 711 Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Established (King)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: March 9, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 711 creates a four-year pilot in the State Department of Education (MSDE) to award grants to local jurisdictions or a designated child care licensing region to establish and support family child care providers within an urban, suburban, and rural region. The bill mandates annual appropriation in the amount of \$450,000 in FY 2023 and FY 2024 to fund the grant awards. MSDE is to partner with the Maryland Child Care Resource Network to administer the program.

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the mandated increase in funding for this program. DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which requires spending allocations for FY 2022 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2020.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19, making revenue predictions for the remainder of FY 2021 and FY 2022 highly volatile. Many individuals and households are unemployed or underemployed, with many industry sectors operating at much less than 100% capacity. Federal stimulus programs are providing much needed relief, but the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability.

The General Assembly and Administration have successfully enacted the Governor's emergency Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families Act (SB 496 RELIEF Act), which provides \$1.2 billion in direct stimulus and tax relief for Maryland working families, small businesses, and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is incumbent upon us to allow the impact of this unprecedented relief package on the State's economy to take effect. Further mandated spending increases need to be reevaluated within the context of an ongoing pandemic.

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>

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
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