

February 19, 2021

Oral Testimony

HB 944 - Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program

House Ways and Means Committee

Good Afternoon,

- My name is Ruby Daniels, and I am the President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA). I would like to thank Delegate Kaiser and this committee for this opportunity to speak in support of HB 944.
- MSFCCA represents over 4700 registered family child care providers and are an important part of the child care delivery system in Maryland.
- We are concerned that when the drastic decline of Family Child Care and Large Family Homes in Maryland. There are many reasons for this, though a significant one is the lack of financial stability for the profession.
- HB 944 would provide Grant Funding to local jurisdictions for a 2-year pilot program to help establish quality family child care and large group family child care in specific areas to provide equitable access to high-quality programs.
- Family child care is made up of predominantly women and minorities who many times are also single family households.
- HB 944 would establish family child care providers that would be better equipped to financially support their families and pursue a career in the Early Education Field.
- Maryland is a leader in early care and education policy and giving HB 944 a favorable vote will begin the process of saving an industry that is vitally important to our families and our economy.