



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

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

**HB**  
**944**

February 24, 2021

**TO:** Members of the Ways & Means Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 944 – Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 944.

HB 944 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 House Bill 944.