

HB0089-BT_MACo_SUP.pdf

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Position: FAV



House Bill 89

State Department of Education - Child Care Stabilization Grants

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation and Education, Health,
and Environmental Affairs Committees

Date: March 29, 2022

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 89. This bill would support currently licensed child care providers in the state and would incentivize the establishment of new providers. It comes at a time when the child care community and county resources are pushed to their brink.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated the shortage of licensed child care providers to support the safe care of Maryland's kids and support the state's working families. Maryland does not currently have enough licensed providers to meet the needs of such families balancing work, child care, and the ongoing pandemic, as many providers had to cease operation due to public health risk and financial instability associated with COVID-19. Those providers that remain in operation are struggling to stay afloat, and many are unable to provide reliable child care.

HB 89 seeks to address these issues. The bill would provide existing child care providers with stabilization grants to help offset costs and fiscal instability, and would incentivize new providers to come into the market via significant financial assistance to establish licensed child care providers. Furthermore, the grants established in HB 89 are authorized to support a variety of critical expenses associated with operating a safe and reliable child care facility, including materials and programming, staff training, and relevant to the ongoing pandemic, cleaning supplies.

While counties have creatively addressed the needs of reliable and safe child care, they welcome State contribution to stabilize the industry. County departments of parks and recreation, for example, have provided after school and interactive programming, and county governments have partnered with local nonprofits around the state to lessen the impact of Maryland's child care crisis. However, these programs do not take the place of reliable and dedicated child care providers.

Reliable and safe child care is critical for economic development, successful families and communities, and the development of children. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 89 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

HB 89 March 29 Budget and Taxation Committee (fina

Uploaded by: Christina Peusch

Position: FAV



**Caring For Maryland's Most
Important Natural Resource™**

Maryland State Child Care Association

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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 5000 members working in the field of early childhood/child care. 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.

March 29, 2022

House Bill 89

Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established

Budget and Taxation Committee

Position: Favorable SUPPORT

The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) fully and enthusiastically supports HB 89 and is grateful for Delegate Queen's leadership, support and advocacy for child care and we are grateful for the support by the entire Maryland General Assembly for your work on behalf of child care during the COVID pandemic as well as the road to recovery for child care small businesses.

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) reports as of December 2021, 855 licensed child care programs have closed since March 2020. A decline of almost 10%. We went from 7,933 businesses to 7,078 businesses and more continue to close due to decreased enrollment, increased expenses and critical staffing shortages. MSDE data shows of the 97% of child care businesses that are currently open, 44% of them are under 50% enrolled. Yet the fixed costs remain, and other expenses have skyrocketed.

Without the federal PPP loans and the numerous Covid Relief packages including the American Rescue Plan Act Child Care Stabilization grants which, after March 4, 2022, will be expended with no additional federal relief expected, most child care businesses would not have survived. States need to invest in child care. Without child care, Marylanders cannot work.

Child care is a tuition dependent business, operating on razor thin margins, carried on the backs of parents who are stretched thin. The majority of child care expenses are fixed. They cannot operate any part of their business remotely, they cannot automate or change practices to adjust, and they must maintain adherence to strict teacher to child staffing ratios. As a top-three household expense for families already, raising tuition is a last resort and simply untenable for many child care providers. Childcare shortages impact the economy. Many private providers deliver wraparound care to school-age children, so a child care shortage would impact families with children of all ages. Program closures and child care shortages negatively impact the economy as industry jobs are lost (both providers and child care/early childhood educators) and parents are forced to drop out of the workforce due to lack of adequate care options.

House Bill 89 establishes a state funded Child Care Expansion Grant Program which can be a model for other states and a lifeline for struggling child care businesses. This legislation will assist with financial barriers including COMAR required staff training, criminal background check fees, cleaning supplies which have increased in price and use due to pandemic, educational supplies, and allows for capital or facility improvements to expand child care availability. The legislation also requires MSDE to award the grant no more than three months after an application is submitted. This is an important provision as the goal is to stabilize which should convey a sense of urgency. Grants must adhere to a specific timeline effectively and efficiently in order for businesses to budget accordingly.

Another significant consideration is the alignment of HB 89 with the Blueprint for Maryland's universal expansion of prekindergarten sites through mixed delivery systems including community-based programs. The Blueprint addresses prekindergarten through a five-year phased in mixed delivery system with a minimum 50/50 split for public schools and community-based providers. Maryland will need child care businesses to achieve these goals. HB 89 is an important investment for child care and can facilitate expanding and building capacity, providing access to pre-kindergarten and school-age wrap around care to families in Maryland.

MSCCA's priorities agenda is to ensure children and families have access to affordable, consistent, and quality child care programs and to alleviate barriers. We must work together to rebuild capacity, support our existing child care businesses who have played an essential role during this pandemic. Child care businesses stepped up and kept their doors open so essential personnel could go to work. Child care has remained open despite facing significant under enrollment due to COVID so Marylanders could return to work.

MSCCA supports House Bill 89 as a pathway to rebuild access for families and children and help hard-hit child care businesses stabilize and recover as they return to full enrollment. We need investments to rebuild a sustainable child care system to ensure affordable options for families and long-term survival for businesses.

MSCCA urges a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Christina Peusch, Executive Director

HB 89 FAV MFN Macsherry X-OVER.pdf

Uploaded by: Clinton Macsherry

Position: FAV



Testimony Concerning HB 89
“State Department of Education – Child Care Stabilization Grants”
Submitted to the Senate Budget & Taxation and Education, Health, &
Environmental Affairs Committees
March 29, 2022

Position: Favorable

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports HB 89 as amended, which would provide financial support to licensed child care providers in the State. The grants would be critical to helping the child care sector emerge from 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. 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 an MFN survey). Maryland providers may have managed to keep their doors open thus far, but for too many, their current level of operation is 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.

HB 89 will support and stabilize the supply of child care programs and enable child care businesses and workers to prosper.

MFN respectfully urges favorable consideration of HB 89.

HB0089 - 3.29.22 -- (Opposite)Child Care Stabiliza

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Position: FAV



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

**HOUSE BILL 89 – STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION –
CHILD CARE STABILIZATION – GRANTS
Delegate Queen**

March 29, 2022

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

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports House Bill 89, which would require the State Department of Education to administer stabilization grants to provide financial support to child care providers that have faced a financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State Department of Education would award \$50 million in grants to child care providers in fiscal year 2022. The criteria for provider preference in order of priority would be those:

- With a significant risk of closing within the next 12 months
- That have not recently received a stabilization grant
- That participate in the Child Care Scholarship Program
- Located in areas lacking child care slots
- That serve primarily low-income populations in areas of high poverty
- That serve children with special needs
- That serve children 2 years old or under.

The GBC COVID-19 Business Recovery Advisory Council, comprised of regional business executives, made a number of recommendations to assist businesses recover from the pandemic, with a particular focus on small and minority-owned businesses. Recognizing both the immediate problems, as well as a systemic shortage of quality licensed child-care options, the council called 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. Strengthening existing child care providers and supporting an increase in the available number of child care 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. Providing funds to struggling child care providers will have positive economic effects on families, businesses, and the state economy.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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This bill is consistent with one of the key tenets in *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth. The pillar provides:

Government leadership that unites with business as a partner. Maryland leaders must set a welcoming tone that communicates positive support for business, respect for the private sector as a partner, not an adversary, and reflects a strategic plan for business growth and job creation.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on House Bill 89.

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 67-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.

HB89_Childcare Stabilization_Support_SENATE.pdf

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Position: FAV



DATE: March 29, 2022 **COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation
BILL NO: House Bill 89
BILL TITLE: Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program -
Established
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports House Bill 89 - Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established

Bill Summary:

HB89 establishes a Child Care Stabilization Grant Program at the Maryland Department of Education. This program will provide financial support to licensed child care providers in the State that are in danger of closing within the next 12 months because of financial hardship.

Background:

At Kennedy Krieger Institute, we have multiple, high quality evidence informed programs in early childhood education serving "at risk" and medically complex children.

Our Programs include:

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

World of Care Medical Child Care: Children, ages birth to five years, who need daily nursing care and specialized equipment receive high-quality childcare at the World of Care Medical Child Care center. Comprehensive services include daily skilled nursing care/interventions, occupational, physical, and speech therapy. At present, World of Care serves 85 children and their families.

Therapeutic Nursery for Homeless Infants and Toddlers: This program is the only early Head Start in Baltimore 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. The Therapeutic Nursery also provides research-based mental health interventions for parents.

Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) Pre-K and Model Inclusion Child Care: serves children ages 3, 4 and 5-years old is a full-day program uses the Connect 4 Learning Pre-K curriculum, a National Science Foundation-supported program. The Pre-K Program provides a safe learning environment with a low staff-to-student ratio that allows us to meet the learning and emotional needs of each child. The Model Inclusion Child Care program serves children ages 4 and 5 years. Children spend part of the day acting as a peer model for children with autism during assigned preschool groups led by certified speech-language pathologists. Both co-located in Northwest Baltimore City on the Kennedy Krieger Greenspring Campus.

Rationale:

At Kennedy Krieger Institute, we have a unique understanding of the positive, long-term impacts that investing in early childhood care (ECE) and education has on children's development. Specifically, studies have found

benefits to academic, social, emotional, and behavioral functioning for children who attend ECE programs^{1 2,3}, and these benefits are sustained over time.³

Moreover, in-person evidence-based, high-quality ECE programs mitigate directly harmful environmental and social impacts on young children by providing developmentally appropriate activities, nutritious meals, family support services that facilitate learning, health, and well-being. In addition, high-quality ECE programs include developmental and health screenings and enriched education experiences that foster a strong foundation for children to meet milestones in a safe environment. High-quality ECE programs build Maryland's economic base by enabling parents to feel comfortable in the workforce, knowing their children are safe, learning, enjoying structured social interactions, and eating nutritious meals and snacks. Research shows that every dollar invested in high-quality ECE programs generates a return of \$7.30 for the community.⁴ As such, investing in our youngest children is likely to pay dividends in the future.⁵

Maryland's young children, however, are adversely affected by disruptions to ECE programs from the COVID-19 pandemic and numerous socially determined conditions. As many as 30% to 50% fewer children have been enrolled in high-quality early childhood programs since the pandemic began! Compared to pre-pandemic levels, only 56% of centers are fully operating in January 2021. Quality ECE program closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic result in social isolation, unaddressed loss, grief, and trauma, parental job loss, and family food and housing insecurity. Quality ECE program closures limit children's socio-emotional development and peer interaction. Quality ECE program closures lead to missed well-child visits and developmental screenings and undermine economic stability for working families.

With fewer spaces and fewer centers, children are less likely to receive developmental services and support. Children are already suffering from the impact of pandemic-related ECE program closures. Decreases in children's verbal, motor, and cognitive assessments are reported.⁶ Only 61% of Head Start 3-year-olds met readiness measures in FY20, down from 92% in FY17 (MOCFS). Increasing access to high-quality ECE programs for children in Maryland is necessary to address health and education disparities. Children of color are more likely to experience center closures during the pandemic.⁷ The expenses related to running a childcare facility can be great, and the pandemic has taken an enormous toll on ECE program providers. Moreover, about 75% of Maryland ECE programs report that they continue to experience staffing shortages and low wages, indicating that continued investments are needed in this sector.⁸ In particular, the omicron variant has brought further stress and uncertainty to many facets of society, including childcare centers, and has reminded us that the pandemic is not over. Other variants could emerge that could further disrupt the lives of our young children and families.⁹

Overall, the success of high-quality, evidence-based ECE programs is vital for the success of all Marylanders. Having an established stabilization fund to keep high-quality ECE programs' doors open is fundamental to building a thriving Maryland today and for the future.

Kennedy Krieger Institute strongly supports a favorable report on House Bill 89.

References

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MD Catholic Conference_FAV_HB 89 SENATE CROSS.pdf

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Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 29, 2022

**House Bill 89
State Department of Education - Child Care Stabilization Grants**

**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee**

SUPPORT

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in SUPPORT to House Bill 89. 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.

House Bill 89 would provide financial support to licensed child care providers in Maryland at imminent risk of closing due to financial hardship. This legislation also seeks to increase access and availability of licensed child care through financial assistance grants to new or existing eligible child care providers.

These grants would provide much needed support to a vital and essential sector of Marylanders' everyday lives. Hundreds of providers have been forced to close their doors since the coronavirus pandemic began in 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 ensure they remain open in service to needing Maryland families.

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 House Bill 89.

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_HB0089.pdf

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Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JOEL N. BELLER
Acting Director of Government Affairs

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG
Associate Director of Government Affairs

MIA R. GOGEL
Associate Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **HB 89**

TITLE: State Department of Education - Child Care Stabilization Grants

SPONSOR: Delegate Queen

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 29, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 89 – State Department of Education - Child Care Stabilization Grants. This bill authorizes the State Department of Education to financially support licensed child care providers facing financial hardship and expand new or existing childcare services.

Child care facilities within the state are vital to the families they serve. These facilities provide consistent care for children and give them a safe space while their parents are at work. This consistent care is especially important due to the disruption of many children’s routines caused by the pandemic. The accessibility of care facilities in the state is crucial to parent’s ability to find a facility that they trust to care for their children.

This bill expands access to child care by providing funds to prevent vital facilities from closing due to financial trouble. HB 89 ensures that facilities may stay open and provide families, with varying budgets and needs, a safe place for their children. With all the challenges and disruptions occurring in today’s world, it is critical to ensure safe and consistent care for some of the State’s most vulnerable residents.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 89. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.

HB 89_MoCo_Frey_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Leslie Frey

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 89

DATE: March 29, 2022

SPONSOR: Delegate Queen

ASSIGNED TO: Budget & Taxation and Education, Health & Environmental Affairs

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program – Established

House Bill 89 is an emergency bill that would require the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to administer \$50M in child care stabilization grants during FY22 to child care providers who have faced a financial hardship or suffered an operational burden during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the bill, priority would be given to providers who: demonstrate that they are in danger of closing within twelve months due to financial hardship; did not receive a stabilization grant in the prior application cycle; participate in the Child Care Scholarship Program; are located in areas designated by MSDE as lacking child care slots; serve primarily low-income populations in areas of high poverty; serve children with special needs; and serve children two years old and younger.

If enacted, House Bill 89 would aid child care providers at a critical time when recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19 has not fully been realized for many providers who are still struggling to keep their doors open. When surveyed by the County in the fall of 2021, nearly one third of child care providers who responded said that they were unlikely to be able to continue operating in 6 months if conditions remained the same as they were at the time. Fifty-seven percent of survey respondents indicated capital costs such as rent and facility maintenance costs were the largest burden on their finances. The grants created by the Program under House Bill 89 could directly assist providers with costs such as these.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Montgomery County has allocated over \$21M to supporting child care programs in an effort to maintain an adequate supply of child care providers while parents balanced work, virtual learning for school-aged children, and other uncertainties during the pandemic. Despite these efforts, child care providers across the state remain in need of the financial support offered by House Bill 89; Montgomery County respectfully urges the committees to issue a favorable report.

HB0089 Testimony .docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

Position: FAV



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TO: Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: 03/29/2022
RE: HB0089 Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care
Expansion Grant Program – Established

The MLLC supports HB0089 Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program – Established

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0089.

High-quality child care is critical for Latino households. A large number of Latino families are low-income with both parents employed and working odd hours or multiple shifts. Child care availability is especially limited for families who have night shifts or live in rural areas. Over 25% of parents have reported challenges in finding care that was affordable, high quality, and convenient. The Hispanic Research Center also reported that it was difficult to find child care centers that had open slots, were available outside Monday-Friday or on an emergency/sick child basis. Despite the extensive hours that Latino parents work, their low income makes them opt to leave children with acquaintances, siblings, or other family members.

As expected, this means that infants, toddlers, and children are not always in a safe environment. These individuals may not monitor and supervise children as much as necessary. Nonetheless, when examining further studies, it becomes evident that low-income families (common in the Latino community) are forced to take the decisions mentioned above. In Maryland, single parents pay 39.5% of their income for center-based infant child care. The annual price of center-based child care for two children would cost a married-couple family (living at or below the federal poverty level) over 100% of their annual household income.

The bill creates two grant programs supporting the child care industry in sustaining (preventing closure of childcare businesses in danger of closing in the next 12 months due to financial hardship) and expanding (funding for staff training, supplies, location improvements, etc). These grants are continuously available. Applicants can benefit from one grant type at a time and may not receive a combination of either grant type for more than 5 consecutive years.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0089.

HB0089-BT-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Natasha Mehu

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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

HB 89

March 29, 2022

TO: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 89 – State Department of Education - Child Care Stabilization Grants

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration **supports** House Bill (HB) 89.

HB 89 establishes a Child Care Stabilization Grant Program in the State Department of Education which would support licensed child care providers in the state have faced financial or operational hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Preferences is given to providers that have significant risk of closing within the next 12 months, participate in the Child Care Scholarship Program, are located in areas lacking child care slot, or serve low-income and special needs populations as well as children under two.

From 2016-2020, there were 24 child homicides committed by a parent or caregiver. Through the Baltimore City Child Fatality Review (CFR) program, a subcommittee was established in order to uncover the drivers of these homicides in Baltimore City. This subcommittee was composed of public health professionals, health care providers, and community advocates. During review of 37 cases of fatal and near-fatal child abuse and neglect, this subcommittee saw that many of these children were placed in the care of a known unsafe caregiver due to the parent not having a safer option.

In one case, a mother without any other source of regular child care left for work with her toddler in the care of her boyfriend, against whom she had filed a peace order 6 weeks earlier; he had been charged with second-degree assault in an incident of intimate partner violence. The toddler died from multiple injuries resulting from beating and shaking. In another case, a mother with a long history of treatment for depression left her 1-year-old twins in the care of her ex-boyfriend, despite that they had separated due to intimate partner violence and that they had had a physical

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<https://mogr.baltimorecity.gov/>*

altercation earlier that day during which he had threatened to kill her and the children. She needed to visit someone in the hospital and had no other option for child care. The twins were beaten and seriously injured, with one becoming unresponsive in the ED but subsequently revived.

Unfortunately, there are many more cases like this. Lack of safe, quality child care must be addressed in order to prevent child abuse and neglect fatalities. In too many cases, a child was in the care of an unsafe caregiver, whether a caregiver who was a perpetrator of intimate partner violence or previous abuse or neglect of that child, a sibling, or another child. In order for parents to make good choices for their children, they must also have access to safe, quality, affordable child care. That being said, it is our collective responsibility to make sure there are as many safe child care resources as possible in order to safeguard the health of children in our community.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests request a **favorable** report on House Bill 89.

HB89 Amdn Fav Child Care Center Grants.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Miicke

Position: FAV

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 89- Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program – Established

Budget and Taxation Committee – March 29, 2022

SUPPORT AS AMENDED

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Adat Chaim Congregation

American Jewish Committee

Americans for Peace Now

Baltimore Chapter

American Israel Public Affairs Committee

American Red Magen David for Israel

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 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

Background: House Bill 89, (HB89) would establish the Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and the Child Care Expansion Grant Program in the State Department of Education. The Stabilization Grant would provide financial assistance to childcare centers at risk of closing in the next year due to financial hardships. Grants for eligible centers would range from \$1,000 to \$35,000 dollars. The Expansion Grant would help fund the expansion of current licensed providers or help with the opening of new centers. Grant for eligible centers would range from \$3,000 to \$50,000 dollars.

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 run two early childhood centers, one of which was closed for a large part of 2020 due to 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 of \$1.9 million, whereas the projected revenue for FY21 is \$1.4 million (with the help of the Federal PPP).

Without assistance many childcare centers are not going to be able to make into the end of the pandemic, in fact 16% of childcare centers in our state had closed by January 2021 and by November 2021 751 centers had 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 focus on a post-Covid world.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report on HB89.

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.

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

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Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated



HB 89 - SWA - State Department of Education - Chil

Uploaded by: Yousuf Ahmad

Position: FWA

House Bill 89 - State Department of Education - Child Care Stabilization Grants
Senate Budget and Taxation and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 29, 2022

The COVID-19 public health emergency has highlighted the critical role child care plays in supporting Maryland's children, families, businesses, and the state economy as a whole.

Immediate financial relief for centers at risk of closure is a valuable strategy to bolster a robust and stable child care system. Even prior to COVID-19 child care providers experienced challenges meeting their operational costs each month.

As the pandemic has continued to impact Marylanders, a significant number of family child care and center-based providers have continued to struggle to stay open. Providers will continue to need support in an under-resourced and challenging system.

While Federal relief packages have been helpful, they are temporary, and will not be a long-term solution to addressing the devastating effect of the pandemic on our child care system. MSDE believes that providing continued support to licensed child care providers that find themselves in danger of closing due to financial hardship is critical to the maintenance of child care infrastructure in the State. MSDE also is supportive of establishing a program that would aid new and existing child care programs with the costs of expanding their capacity.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **House Bill 89**. Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov, for any additional information.