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**BILL NO.:** Senate Bill 480

**TITLE:** Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established

**SPONSOR:** Senator Hester

**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

**DATE:** February 16, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 480 – Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established. This bill establishes the Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program 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. SB 480 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 SB 480. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).