



# Central Maryland Chamber

*The Center of Intelligent Business*

Legislative Position: Favorable  
Senate Bill 919  
Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund  
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

The Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce (CMC) was formed in 2017, a merger of two existing chambers- The Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber (originally founded in 1948) and the West Anne Arundel County Chamber (originally founded in 1962). The CMC is a regional organization representing approximately 350 businesses in the Central Maryland corridor and exists to be the primary business resource and advocate as the area experiences exponential growth.

The Central Maryland Chamber is writing in support of SB 919.

SB 919 would establish the Child Care Support Revolving Loan Fund as a special, non-lapsing fund to provide no-interest loans for capital expenses related to a childcare facility to childcare providers who participate in the Child Care Scholarship Program requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; requiring the State Department of Education to administer the Fund; and requiring the Department of Commerce to publicize the availability of loans from the fund.

Childcare is one of the biggest issues we're hearing from Chamber member businesses right now. It affects our employees and employers, with employees needing to get to work to support themselves and businesses needing staff to keep their doors open and grow. After the pandemic exacerbated the childcare gap, we understand there are no simple solutions to this problem. We're also hearing this loud and clear from our partners at Ft. Meade as their childcare system can only handle approximately 40% of the demand of their servicemembers.

Many children from low-income families receive childcare credits/ scholarships for qualifying childcare centers. The process is complicated at times for qualified children to be approved and for the scholarship payments to begin. This bill will help childcare centers, and individuals looking to open a center, to use funds for acquisition, expansion, renovations, and new construction. The no interest loans to the providers who participate in the scholarship program will allow them to build or expand their operations, take in more children, fill the overwhelming demand, and pay back the loans in a reasonable amount of time without interest. This is a win all around and a great start for a solution to the childcare crisis we are currently experiencing.

While businesses are struggling to recover from impacts of the pandemic and entrepreneurs have been hesitant to make major investments due to market volatility, a program like this can make a huge difference to Maryland's business community and help people return to the workforce, fill job vacancies and better themselves.

The Central Maryland Chamber urges you to support SB919.