

**2022 GBCC SB 480 Support.pdf**

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Position: FAV



**Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce**

*In Support of  
Senate Bill 480—Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant  
Program--Established*

*February 16, 2022  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and Education, Health and Environmental Affairs  
Committee*

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 550 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on Senate Bill 480—Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program—Established.

The Greater Bethesda Chamber has identified the issue of child care access and affordability as an urgent economic imperative that needs to be addressed to help Maryland grow and prosper. We strongly believe there are economic costs to unreliable and unaffordable child care. As Maryland continues to reopen and more people go back to work, child care challenges present a growing threat to the State's economy. The rapid workplace changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact and created significant new challenges in the attraction and retention of employees. Now more than ever, the availability of quality and affordable child care is an important determinate to the success of the local workforce.

We believe the programs established in Senate Bill 480 are a step in the right direction to helping current struggling child care providers while at the same time providing much-needed assistance to new providers. We must support this struggling industry as it is a crucial one for the success of Maryland's current and future workforce.

For these reasons, we strongly support Senate Bill 480.

# **SB0480 -- Child Care Stabilization Grant Program a**

Uploaded by: Brian Levine

Position: FAV



**Senate Bill 480 -- *Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established***  
**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**  
**February 16, 2022**  
**Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports Senate Bill 480 – *Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program – Established*.

Senate Bill 480 establishes the Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and the Child Care Expansion Grant Program in the State Department of Education. The bill states that the purpose of the Child Care Expansion Grant Program to increase access and availability of licensed child care providers in the state by providing financial assistance to new or existing child care providers. The Child Care Stabilization Grant Program’s stated purpose in the bill is to provide financial support to licensed child care providers in the state that are in danger of closing in the next 12 months due to financial hardship.

MCCC has identified the issue of child care access and affordability as an economic imperative that needs to be addressed to help Maryland employers and employees succeed. There are significant economic costs to unreliable and unaffordable child care in Maryland.

MCCC contends that increasing affordable and quality child care was critical prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and is now even more important. As Maryland seeks to open up more following the Omicron variant and get more people back to work, child care challenges present a growing threat to the Maryland’s economy. The rapid workplace changes brought about by the pandemic have created new challenges in attracting and retaining employees. Now more than ever, the availability of quality and affordable child care is an important determinate to the success of the workforce.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports Senate Bill 480 and respectfully requests a favorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.*

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**SB0480\_FAV\_JOTF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Caleb Jasso

Position: FAV

# JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

*Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes*

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF Senate Bill 480:

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

TO: Hon. Guy Guzzone, Chair, and Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee

FROM: Caleb Jasso, Policy Advocate

DATE: February 16, 2022

The Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF) is an independent, nonprofit organization that advocates for better jobs, skills training, and wages for low-income workers and job seekers in Maryland. JOTF supports **Senate Bill 480** as a means to provide financial support to licensed child care providers in the State that are in danger of closing in the next 12 months due to financial hardship. The Child Care Expansion Grant Program is intended to increase access and availability of licensed child care providers in the State by providing financial assistance to new or existing child care providers.

Affordable and accessible childcare is paramount to the success of any economy. According to the Census Bureau, there are over 15 million children in the U.S. who are under age six and regularly require childcare. More than 300,000 of those children live in [Maryland](#). Ensuring that Marylanders have access to affordable childcare is crucial for their peace of mind - how could a parent go to work knowing that their child is not being properly cared for, or that their only option for child care is now 1 hour away versus 30 minutes due to a recent closure? Furthermore, with fewer licensed providers, the potential for unlicensed illegal services will grow which can pose a danger to parents and to children due to the lack of regulation. According to the **Maryland Office of Child Care (OCC)** found within the Maryland Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood, child care services are classified as [formal](#) and [informal](#):

- **Informal** child care is when a friend, relative, or nanny cares for a child in the family home or in his or her own home, receives no compensation of any kind for providing care, or provides care for less than 20 hours per month.
- **Formal** child care includes child care centers and family child care homes. OCC has standards for these facilities to be licensed or registered. **Providers who are not licensed or registered are offering illegal and potentially dangerous child care.**

The Child Care Expansion Grant Program is intended to increase access and availability of licensed child care providers in the State by providing financial assistance to new or existing child care providers. This is a necessary action because it will ensure that parents have access to formal child care services that can be regulated and reviewed annually. Without formal child care access, many parents may have to make professional sacrifices, including working less, so that they may guarantee that their child has proper supervision. **Senate Bill 480** will have a profound impact on low-wage workers and their families because it will provide them peace of mind knowing that their child is safe while they are at work.

# JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

*Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes*

Additionally, because the bill provides funding for new child care providers, it has the potential to increase job opportunities for those who want to work in the child care industry.

Not knowing where your child is going to go while you are at work, or even how they will be treated while they are in the care of someone else is a truly terrifying, unnerving feeling. Senate Bill 480 seeks to rectify this fear by providing the financial resources new or struggling child care providers need to begin or continue operations - this concept came out of the COVID-19 pandemic and has since presented an opportunity to expand funding as a means to increase child care availability. As advocates for policies that have a positive impact on low-wage workers, JOTF strongly supports Senate Bill 480 as it has the potential to increase the ability for people to work and to have the time to seek out additional skill training while their children are well taken care of. For these reasons, JOTF urges a favorable vote on **Senate Bill 480**.

**For more information, contact:**

**Caleb Jasso / Policy Advocate / [caleb@jotf.org](mailto:caleb@jotf.org) / 626-224-3543**

**SB 480\_MSCCA\_Favorable (Final).pdf**

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.*

February 16, 2022

Senate Bill 480

### **Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established** Education, Health and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation Committees **SUPPORT**

To esteemed members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 480 - Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program – Established. The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) fully and enthusiastically supports SB 480 and is grateful for Senator King and Senator Hester's leadership, support and advocacy for child care. We are also grateful for the support of the entire Maryland General Assembly for your work on behalf of child care during the COVID pandemic.

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) reports 855 licensed child care programs have closed since March 2020. A decline of over 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 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.

Senate Bill 480 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 SB 480 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. SB 480 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 and suffering critical workforce shortages due to COVID so Marylanders could return to work.

MSCCA supports Senate Bill 480 as a pathway to rebuild access for families and children and help hard-hit child care businesses stabilize and recover to 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

**SB 480\_MFN\_FAV\_Macsherry.pdf**

Uploaded by: Clinton Macsherry

Position: FAV



**Testimony Concerning SB 480**  
**“Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion**  
**Grant Program - Established”**  
**Submitted to the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee**  
**February 16, 2022**

**Position: Support**

Maryland Family Network (MFN) strongly supports SB 480, which would establish a grant program to support the development and expansion of child care centers and family child care homes. The grants would be targeted to programs that have experienced pandemic-related financial hardship with the critical goal of helping the child care sector emerge from this 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. MFN has conducted two statewide surveys—the first in June 2020 and the second in March 2021. In both surveys, alarmingly high numbers of programs reported significant losses of revenue. In both surveys, half the providers said they would likely face permanent closure if parents remain reluctant to place their children in group settings for another six months.

Approximately 750 child care programs 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 the latest survey). Maryland providers may have managed to keep their doors open thus far, but for too many, their current level of operation is clearly 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. The good news is that even among closed providers, large percentages report that grants to help with fixed costs and other expenses would allow them to reopen.

SB 480 offers a path forward that can stabilize the supply of child care programs, improve access and affordability, enable child care businesses and workers to prosper, and ensure every child has a bright future. Enactment will mean that today's workforce is strong, tomorrow's workforce can grow, and our economy can not only recovery from the current pandemic but can thrive in the years to come.

MFN respectfully urges the Committee's favorable consideration of SB 480.

**SB480 Written Support- Childcare Grants.pdf**

Uploaded by: Demaune Millard

Position: FAV



## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 480

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

**To:** Chair Guy Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

**From:** Demaune A. Millard, President & CEO, Family League of Baltimore

**Date:** February 16, 2022

Family League of Baltimore (Family League) supports Senate Bill 480 Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program – Established as it would establish the Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and the Child Care Expansion Grant Program in the State Department of Education. This bill is necessary for families across Maryland, specifically the city of Baltimore as childcare across the state has experienced major losses due to attendance since the start of the pandemic. The goal of childcare is to provide a safe educational environment for children under school age to learn and be prepared to enter school. Many families were forced to remove their child(ren) from daily early childcare education, resulting in a decline in attendance and enrollment. The two grant funds provided by this bill would enable licensed childcare providers in danger of closing in the next 12 months due to financial hardship to remain open and expand.

Childcare centers in Baltimore would be positively impacted by the passage of SB480 as it would prevent closure of more childcare centers and sustain existing operations. The expansion portion of the grant could increase availability of quality childcare. Many parents rely on accessible childcare, therefore any mechanisms supporting the sustainability of centers in essence would benefit a thriving workforce. In 2021 Baltimore City<sup>1</sup> employed more than 275,000 workers, which is why childcare is important. According to a study done by Maryland Family Network <sup>2</sup>, with the decline in enrollment for children the amount of childcare center open will continue to decrease through 2025. This bill would help alleviate some of the stress that these providers have and provide continuous access to childcare for the parents.

As the designated Local Management Board for the City of Baltimore, Family League works collaboratively to support data-informed, community-driven solutions to align resources to dismantle systemic barriers that limit the possibilities for children, families, and communities. Our policy focus is also guided by and in support of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention Youth and Victim Services' Results for Child Well-Being. Through our strategic planning process, we have prioritized three of these results areas, focusing on the success of Baltimore's children in school; the economic stability of families; and the safety of

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<sup>1</sup> [BaltimoreCity\\_0.pdf \(marylandfamilynetwork.org\)](#) Page 1

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/BaltimoreCity\\_0.pdf](https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/BaltimoreCity_0.pdf). Page 9

communities for children, youth, and families. We support SB480 in particular because of its alignment with the result areas that work to ensure *Children Are Successful in School*.

*For more information contact Keontae Kells, Executive Administrator [kkells@familyleague.org](mailto:kkells@familyleague.org)*



**SB0480-BT\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: FAV



## Senate Bill 480

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

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

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

Date: February 16, 2022

From: Brianna January and Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 480. 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.

SB 480 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 SB 480 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** SB 480 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

# **SB0480 - 2.16.22-- Child Care Stabilization Grant**

Uploaded by: Donald Fry

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

**SENATE BILL 480 – CHILD CARE STABILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM AND  
CHILD CARE EXPANSION GRANT PROGRAM - ESTABLISHED**

**Sponsor: Senator Hester, et al**

**February 16, 2022**

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

**Position: Support**

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports Senate Bill 480, which would establish two new grant programs to assist struggling child care providers. The Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and the Child Care Expansion Grant Program would both be administered by the State Department of Education (MSDE).

The Child Care Stabilization Grant Program would provide financial support to licensed child care providers that are in danger of closing due to financial hardship. Awards would range from \$1,000 to \$35,000. The Child Care Expansion Grant Program would provide grant assistance to new or existing child care providers to increase access and availability of licensed child care. Awards would range from \$3,000 to \$50,000. For each grant, MSDE would be responsible for developing eligibility criteria, application procedures, and a formula for determining grant amounts based on the funding provided in the annual budget.

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.

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 Senate Bill 480.**

*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.*

**GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

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**MOST\_SUPPORT\_SB0480.Childcare.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ellie Mitchell

Position: FAV

January 31, 2022

**SB0480 — Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program –  
Established – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee;

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST is one of the fifty statewide networks supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and serves as Maryland's affiliate to the National Afterschool Association.

MOST Network strongly supports HB0089 as a means to protect the state's ailing childcare sector from further disruptions caused by the covid-19 pandemic. Such measures are necessary not only to maintain the many benefits children receive from early childhood education, but also to ensure the well-being of the broader regional economy.

**Over 700 early childcare facilities in Maryland have closed since the pandemic began.** Amid lockdowns and school closures, many businesses in the sector saw much of their clientele evaporate in early 2020. The introduction of vaccines and the general reopening of the economy allowed many childcare operators to remain in business, but uncertainties related to intermittent school closures and remote work strategies have kept enrollment far below pre-pandemic levels. Facilities that have remained open now struggle to bear the additional costs associated pandemic-related health restrictions, especially sanitation and testing.

Like many industries, early childcare facilities are also struggling with labor shortages. Childcare operators have seen their revenues drop dramatically compared to pre-pandemic levels. As a result, **many employers now find themselves unable offer competitive wages amid an increasingly competitive labor market and inflationary pressures.** Childcare facilities are directly competing with industries that have raised wages and benefits as they try to attract new workers, such as retail, hospitality, food service, and elder care. Early childcare and education providers have simply not had the resources to keep pace with wage growth. This problem has been further compounded by the higher levels of training and certification that are required from new employees.

These personnel shortages have far-reaching effects for the entire economy. **Without quality childcare access for the children, parents must limit their career aspirations to meet the immediate needs of raising young children.** In practice, this often means foregoing higher education, lucrative careers, and training opportunities to supervise their kids. Even for those who benefit from remote work environments, the social and psychological tole of working and raising a family simultaneously is daunting, and many otherwise effective professionals will simply decline these opportunities altogether if they can afford to. This problem is further exacerbated by intermittent school closures, which contributes additional

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uncertainty to parents' employment decision.

Expanding childcare access is therefore a necessary step to support the socio-economic well-being of children, families, and Maryland's economy. Beyond the well-documented benefits of early childcare and education for students, these businesses provide an indispensable service to parents in the workforce by expanding the number job opportunities they can reasonably pursue while still providing for their loved ones. At a moment defined by rising wages and widespread labor shortages, providing Marylanders with additional leverage to take advantage of this historic opportunity is a necessary policy measure.

Ellie Mitchell

Director, Maryland Out of School Time Network

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# **SB480\_Childcare Stabilization\_Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Emily Arneson

Position: FAV





**DATE:** February 16, 2022                      **COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation  
**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 480  
**BILL TITLE:** Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program -  
Established  
**POSITION:** Support

**Kennedy Krieger Institute supports Senate Bill 480 - Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established**

**Bill Summary:**

SB480 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<sup>1 2,3</sup>, and these benefits are sustained over time.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup> As such, investing in our youngest children is likely to pay dividends in the future.<sup>5</sup>

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.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>

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 Senate Bill 480.**

## References

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**MD Catholic Conference\_FAV\_SB 480.pdf**

Uploaded by: Garrett O'Day

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

**February 16, 2022**

**Senate Bill 480  
Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program  
– Established**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

**SUPPORT**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in SUPPORT to Senate Bill 480. 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.

Senate Bill 480 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.

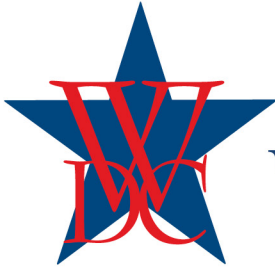
Child Care is an essential component to supporting strong, economically secure families. Additionally, the Church supports this bill as a part of its priority interest in alleviating poverty in our state, as enabling working parents' continued access to child care services is an imperative part of combating 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 Senate Bill 480.

# **WDC testimony SB0480-2022\_FINAL.pdf**

Uploaded by: JoAnne Koravos

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

[www.womensdemocraticclub.org](http://www.womensdemocraticclub.org)

**Senate Bill 0480  
Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established  
Budget and Taxation Committee – February 16, 2022  
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2022 legislative session. WDC is one of the largest and most active Democratic Clubs in our County with hundreds of politically active women and men, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of SB0480 - Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established. This bill will provide financial support to licensed childcare providers that are in danger of closing in the next 12 months due to financial hardship. Annual grants for the Stabilization Grant Program range from \$1,000 to \$35,000, not to exceed five consecutive years. Annual grants for the Expansion Grant Program range from \$3,000 to \$35,000, not to exceed five consecutive years. An applicant may not receive a Stabilization grant and an Expansion grant in the same year. These programs will be administered by the State Department of Education. The bill also requires the Governor to appropriate funds for each grant program, although the amount is not specified.

The availability of affordable, predictable, quality childcare is a significant factor in a woman's ability to remain working and provide for her family. The Maryland Family Network estimates that 79 percent of the State's children under 12 years old have mothers in the workforce. However, the childcare industry is in a crisis. Maryland has some of the highest childcare costs in the U.S., averaging \$13,500 per year for infant care – more than the annual \$10,779 tuition cost for the University of Maryland (which is publicly subsidized). There has been a drop of 36 percent in the childcare workforce since the start of the pandemic and more than one third of childcare providers are considering quitting or closing because of financial challenges.

The enormous expense of establishing and maintaining a childcare facility has long hindered increasing the supply of childcare, especially given the relatively low fees many families can afford to pay. This bill will help address these financial challenges for childcare providers and contribute to the stabilization and expansion of childcare industry, thereby enabling more working women to meet their childcare needs.

**We ask for your support for SB0480 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.** To maintain our competitive edge as a State, we need to keep women in our workforce. **We also ask you to consider specifying an appropriation amount to ensure that this program is adequately funded.**

Respectfully,

Leslie Milano  
President

**BaltimoreCounty\_FAV\_SB0480.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joel Beller

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.:** 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).

**2-16-2022 SB480 Child Care Stabilization Grant Pro**

Uploaded by: Justin Hayes

Position: FAV

## TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

### Support - Senate Bill 480 - Child Care Stabilization Grant Program - Child Care Expansion Grant Program- Established

*Budget and Taxation Committee*

*February 16, 2022*

Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in support of **Senate Bill 480 - Child Care Stabilization Grant Program - Child Care Expansion Grant Program**. I would like to thank Senators Katie Fry Hester, Nancy King, and Chris West for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

The COVID-19 pandemic has depleted the number of childcare providers in the state. Ten percent have shuttered permanently so far due to financial hardship, pandemic restrictions limiting the number of spaces, staffing shortages and extraordinary additional expenses including personal protective equipment (PPE). Childcare providers are essential to Maryland and our economy. When parents struggle to find reliable, affordable, and safe childcare with open slots, they choose to leave the workforce - the results of which are harmful to our state and economy. In addition, these children miss out on early learning opportunities that may impact them in the future as they struggle to catch up.

SB480 childcare stabilization grants provide critically needed funds to staunch the closures, keep centers open and parents in the workforce. Additionally, the childcare expansion grant program will help expand existing licensed childcare operations, and help fund new operations to increase available slots, provide financial supports for staffing, education, supplies, and capital improvements. This legislation tackles the immediate threat the pandemic poses to our remaining childcare providers and charts a stable path forward through COVID-19.

If passed, SB480 will be a win for parents, childcare providers and most importantly children throughout Maryland.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for Senate Bill 480. Thank you for your time and consideration.

###

# **SB480 Sponsor Testimony.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Katie Fry Hester

Position: FAV

**KATIE FRY HESTER**  
*Legislative District 9*  
Carroll and Howard Counties

Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair, Joint Committee on  
Cybersecurity, Information Technology  
and Biotechnology



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KatieFry.Hester@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB0480 - Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program**

February 16th, 2022

Chairman Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, thank you for your consideration of SB480, which will establish two grant programs to stabilize and expand the availability of childcare in the state of Maryland.

According to MSDE, 751 childcare providers in Maryland have closed their doors since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic – that’s over 10% of providers in our state. This industry has not rebounded like many others, unfortunately, and a recent Maryland Family Network survey reported that 51% of providers are in danger of closing within the next year due to COVID-19 related disruptions to their business such as increased cleaning and PPE costs, lowered revenue due to capacity limits, and staffing shortages.

The kinetic impacts to families, businesses, and communities when childcare providers close are significant and wide-ranging. Single parents and essential workers, who could not work from home, felt the brunt of the child care shortage more intensely and were left with few child care options.

It is imperative that the state increase its support. SB480 will establish two grant programs within MSDE in order to 1.) provide up to \$35,000 of emergency financial support to child care programs in danger of closing within the next 12 months and 2.) provide up to \$50,000 of financial support to new childcare programs in the state, or programs that are in the process of expanding their existing capacity. This bill will go a long way towards stabilizing those child care centers currently on the brink of collapse. **I respectfully request a favorable report on SB480.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Fry Hester".

Senator Katie Fry Hester  
Carroll and Howard Counties

**SB480\_MoCo\_Frey\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Leslie Frey

Position: FAV



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550**

**ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270**

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**SB 480**

**DATE: February 16, 2022**

**SPONSOR: Senators Hester, King, and West**

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

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

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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

Senate Bill 480 would create two grant programs in the State Department of Education (MSDE). The Child Care Stabilization Grant Program would provide annual financial support to licensed child care providers who demonstrate that they are in danger of closing within twelve months due to financial hardship. The criteria for eligibility would be developed by MSDE and grants would be between \$1,000 and \$35,000; the award amount would factor the child care provider's capacity as a key criteria. The Child Care Expansion Grant Program would provide annual financial support to new or existing child care providers who do not also access the Child Care Stabilization Grant Program; the purpose of the grant is to increase access to and availability of child care. The criteria for eligibility would be developed by MSDE and grants would be between \$3,000 and \$50,000. Under the bill, grants may be used for certain capital and operating costs associated with establishing or expanding child care programs.

Senate Bill 480 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 Montgomery County in the fall of 2021, nearly one third of 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 Senate Bill 480 would 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 Senate Bill 480; Montgomery County respectfully urges the committees to issue a favorable report.

**MMF-Written Testimony-For SB 480.docx (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Meher Hossain

Position: FAV



# montgomery moving forward

mobilizing leaders to solve our biggest problems together  
nonprofits / business / philanthropy / government / education / community

**Senate Bill 480 -  
Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
SUPPORT**

February 15, 2022

Esteemed Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF), a collective impact initiative of Nonprofit Montgomery, is committed to advancing equitable, accessible systems change in the early care and education (ECE) sector in Montgomery County. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, MMF convened over 50 labor, business, education, philanthropic, and nonprofit leaders in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. This representative cross-sector Early Care and Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition understands that a diverse, resilient early care and education workforce is necessary for our state's economic recovery.

**Montgomery Moving Forward and the Early Care and Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition enthusiastically supports SB 480, Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established.** We are grateful for Senators Hester, King, and West's leadership and advocacy for the child care sector and the support by the entire Maryland General Assembly for your work on behalf of child care providers during the COVID pandemic. Your continued support and recognition of the essential role of the child care sector to our state's economic success is invaluable as we work together to create a more equitable and resilient early care and education system in Maryland.

Senate Bill 480 establishes a state funded Child Care Expansion Grant Program to 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 the sector with urgent and efficient measures. This program will be a lifeline for struggling child care businesses and can also serve as a model for other states.

According to the Maryland Early Childhood Advisory Council, there are 855 fewer child care providers in Maryland now than in March 2020; decline of almost 15%. Family and center-based child care providers continue to close due to decreased enrollment, increased expenses and critical staffing shortages. MSDE data shows that of the 97% of child care businesses that are currently open, 44% of them are under 50% enrolled. According to an interactive calculator, "child care providers are facing, on average, a 47 percent increase in operating costs during the pandemic, with even higher increases for programs serving three-

and four-year-olds.” In Maryland, providers are facing an average of 53 percent increase in costs.<sup>1</sup> Without federal PPP support and the numerous Covid Relief packages, including the American Rescue Plan Act Child Care Stabilization grants, most child care businesses would not survive. We need to invest in child care now. **Without child care, the current workforce cannot work and the investment in our workforce of tomorrow will suffer.**

Another significant consideration is the alignment of SB 480 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. SB 480 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.

Montgomery Moving Forward and the Early Care and Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition support Senate Bill 480 as a pathway to building a sustainable ECE system to ensure affordable child care options for today’s workforce and long-term investments in the workforce of tomorrow.

Early care and education is an economic and social justice imperative and a pillar of Maryland’s economy. **We urge you to give SB 480 a favorable report.**

Respectfully and sincerely,

**Montgomery Moving Forward Co-Chairs, Kevin Beverly; Susan Madden; and Kathy Stevens**, and the following Members of the Early Care and Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition: **Lindsey Allard Agnamba**, Chief Executive Officer, **School Readiness Consulting**; **Laura Bardini**, Executive Director, **Rockville Day Care Association, Inc.**; **Rosalba Bonilla**, Maryland State Director, **CentroNia**; **Larry Bram**, Senior Vice President, Innovation & Program Development, **Easter Seals Serving DC|MD|VA**; **Bob Buchanan**, Partner, **Buchanan Partners**; **Jody Burghardt**, Children and Family Services Division Director, **Sheppard Pratt**; **Francisco Cartagena**, Information Technology Project Manager, **City of Gaithersburg**; **Sally D’Italia**, Co-Chair, **DC Directors Exchange**; **Ruby Daniels**, President, **Maryland State Family Child Care Association**; **Joanne Hurt**, Executive Director, **Wonders Early Learning and Extended Day**; **Tiffany Jones**, Owner/Director, **Precious Moments Family Childcare**; **Maryland Center on Economic Policy**; **Christina Lopez**, President, **Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children**; **Christina Peusch**, President, **Maryland State Child Care Association**; **Travis B. Simon**, Director of Political and Legislative Affairs, **SEIU Local 500**

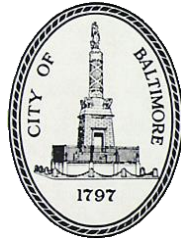
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<sup>1</sup> Center for American Progress, September 3, 2020  
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2020/09/03/489900/true-cost-providing-safe-child-care-coronavirus-pandemic/>

**SB0480-BT-FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Natasha Mehu

Position: FAV



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

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

**SB 480**

February 16, 2022

**TO:** Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

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

**RE:** Senate Bill 480 – Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program – Established

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 480.

In an effort to promote access to childcare, SB 480 establishes a Child Care Stabilization Grant Program in the State Department of Education which would support licensed child care providers in the state that are in danger of closing in the next 12 months due to financial hardship. It also establishes a Child Care Expansion Grant Program which would increase access and availability of licensed care providers in the state by providing financial assistance to new or existing child care providers.

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 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 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 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 to safeguard the health of children in our community. The Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program would give new and existing licensed child care providers the support they need to do the very important work of ensuring that the children in our community are safe when their regular caregivers are away. We urge legislators to support these grant programs to protect safe child care resources and the well-being of children in our community.

For these reasons, we request a **favorable** report on SB 480.

**SB 480.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rebecca Hancock

Position: FAV

**Testimony Concerning SB 480 - Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child  
Care Expansion Grant Program**

**Submitted to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

**February 16, 2022**

**Position: Support**

Good Morning, my name is Rebecca Hancock I am a family child care provider in Charles County. I have been a registered family child care provider through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) since 1995. I am saddened to see in recent years there has been a dramatic decline (closures) in family child care programs for many years, but none so much as in the last year and half. I realize Covid-19 has caused much havoc among many small businesses, but the loss of quality family child care programs should be a huge concern to all Maryland families. Working parents struggled to find good quality child care before Covid but the sharp rise in Covid related closings make it so much more difficult.

As a family child care provider, I have always struggled with a fluctuating income due to the mandated small group size. Most providers, like myself, are registered for up to eight (8) children, and even this has been hard to maintain with Covid disruptions, changes in Covid Restrictions, and parents working remotely or leaving the workforce entirely. While my enrollment is down, the cost of running my small business continues to rise. The ever-increasing cost of remaining in business with such small income margins is a huge concern to myself and other providers. The Child Care Stabilization Grants have enabled large numbers of programs to remain in business that may have otherwise closed, but ongoing help is still needed. SB 480 can help to stabilize the current childcare industry, as well as provide the financial support needed to increase availability of new programs and give access for working families.

Many family child care providers are interested in becoming 4-infant homes and/or Large Family Child Care Homes. SB 480 can provide the much needed help to make these transitions. Large family child care homes are licensed for 12 children, with the help of the Expansion Grant these programs can offer 4 additional spaces, thereby increasing more access to working families. They may also require increased staff which opens employment opportunities for those seeking work.

SB 480 would help prevent further program closures and support expansion. Your favorable vote is needed to help providers, families and communities in Maryland and support Economic Recovery. I respectfully ask for a favorable vote on SB 480 the Child Care Stabilization Grant and Child Care Expansion Grant. If you have any further questions you may contact me at (301) 934-4445 or email me at [kaysplayhouse1@yahoo.com](mailto:kaysplayhouse1@yahoo.com). Thank you again for the opportunity to share this important matter concerning Maryland's Children.

Rebecca Hancock, 7875 Bel Alton Newtown Road, LaPlata, Maryland 20646, (301) 984-4445



# **Testimony In Support of SB 480 - - HB 89 - Budget**

Uploaded by: Rich Ceruolo

Position: FAV



February 15 2022

Maryland Senate  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of SB 480 / HB 89: Child Care Stabilization and Expansion Grant Program - Established**

Members of the Maryland Senate's Budget and Taxation Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1400 members and fully support establishing a grant program for child care centers contained in SB 480.

This bill would be a huge help to child care centers looking to expand, and for a huge boost for working families that need child care centers. Finding quality child care should not be a luxury for Maryland's working families. It needs to be baked into the recipe of social support programs.

Especially for those families that may be suffering from job loss, job seekers, chronically underemployed, or for those parents looking for child care centers that can handle the tremendous need for quality child care within their community. Finding quality child care is a huge issue for working families, and still lingers as one of the biggest needs for a large populations of our state's working families. And this grant program would be a great augmentation to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future family support framework, and wrap around services offerings.

Maryland needs workers and what better way to get them back to work than by taking care of their child care needs. Child care centers that have trained staff and can handle children safely for the entire work day. This grant program can also make a positive impact on many of Maryland's working families, support working moms and dads as they work to pay their bills, and to feed their families.

We hope that the MGA will also work on other constructive ways of child care centers while supporting Maryland's working families.

Please support Senate Bill 480 and return a favorable report. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo | [richceruolo@gmail.com](mailto:richceruolo@gmail.com)  
Parent, Lead Advocate and Director of Public Policy  
Parent Advocacy Consortium (Find us on Facebook/Meta) |  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAdvocacyConsortium>

**Testimony SB 480 2-16-2022.pdf**

Uploaded by: RUBY DANIELS

Position: FAV



**Testimony Concerning SB 480 – Child Care Stabilization Grant  
Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program**

**Submitted to Ways, Means and Appropriations**

**February 16, 2022**

**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit organization advocating on behalf of 4,440 registered family childcare providers. In SFY 2019, according to MSDE there were 6057 family childcare programs open and operating in the state of Maryland. On January 24, 2022, that number has declined to 4,440, a loss of 1,617 programs which translates to a loss of 12,936 childcare slots for working families. These closures have increased the already existing problem of working families having fewer childcare options, especially families looking for infant and toddler slots.

These small businesses are a vital part of the childcare delivery system in Maryland and a significant portion of the childcare programs that remained OPEN throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. The SB 480 Child Care Stabilization Grants will provide the financial support for programs that are at a greater risk of closing due to financial difficulties.

Many of the family childcare programs continue to struggle with unstable revenue and with inflation on the rise, our expenses continue to increase, yet our income is capped. Even though most family childcare programs are licensed up to 8 children, most providers have found it difficult to maintain a full enrollment of 8 children due to the disruptions caused by covid, changes in covid restrictions, remote work and parents leaving the workforce especially women.

The childcare stabilization grants have allowed many programs to stay in business that would have gone out of business otherwise. The childcare stabilization grants have been beneficial, but we need more help.

SB 480 can help stabilize the childcare industry as well as provide the financial support to expand. With fewer childcare programs, investing in expansion would increase access to working families. Expansion Grant programs can help family childcare with the cost of expanding our existing programs to a 4-infant home. Oftentimes, the cost to expand to a 4 infant home is a deterrent for struggling programs. This is where SB 480 can help.

SB 480 can also help with the cost of expanding to a large family childcare home in counties that allow such expansion. Large family childcare homes are licensed to 12, with the help of the expansion grant, a family childcare home located in counties that is currently licensed for 8 and wishes to expand to a large family childcare home can serve an additional 4 more slots, increasing more access to working families in Maryland. In addition, programs that expand to a large family childcare home may also increase the number of staff by 1 or 2 more providers.

I would like to respectfully ask for a favorable vote on SB 480 the Child Care Stabilization Grant and Child Care Expansion Grant. SB 480 can prevent further closures and can support expansion, increasing access to working families.

# **SB480 Child Care Center Grants.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Miicke

Position: FAV

## OFFICERS

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Baltimore District



## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

### Senate Bill 480- Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program – Established

### Budget and Taxation Committee and Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee– February 16, 2022 SUPPORT

**Background:** Senate Bill 480, (SB480), 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 SB480.

***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







# **SB 480 - Support with Amendments - Child Care Stab**

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SB 480 - Support - Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program  
– Established  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
February 16, 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 **Senate Bill 480**. Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or [ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov](mailto:ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov), for any additional information.

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Position: FWA

# **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

*with Amendments*

Testimony to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
in amended support of  
Senate Bill 480: Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program -  
Established  
February 16, 2022

**Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable vote on an amended Senate Bill 480: Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established.**

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future envisions a world-class system of public schools for our state's students. The Kirwan Commission's far-ranging research in early childhood education led them to make recommendations that function outside of the traditional K-12 system. Similarly, the General Assembly saw fit to support policies that invest in Judy and Patty centers, recognizing the intergenerational benefit of supporting entire families with young children early on.

The current global coronavirus pandemic and resulting policies have severely damaged the capacity of our state's current child care industry to make the conditions envisioned in the Blueprint true. Families with low wealth, those learning to speak English, and those historically denied opportunities for their children to succeed have been impacted disproportionately negatively, and their needs must be addressed.

We request the following amendment to Senate Bill 480:

- Direct the grant program administrators to prioritize relief for providers and providers serving communities who have been disproportionately impacted by the current child care crisis, particularly on the basis of race, native language, disability, or socio-economic status.

Thank you,

Shamoyia Gardiner

Executive Director

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