

2022 GBCC Childcare bills SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Ashlie Bagwell

Position: FAV



Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

In Support of

House Bill 933—Child Care Scholarship Program—Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)

House Bill 993—Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund-Established

House Bill 995—Early Childhood Development—Child Care Scholarship Program-Alterations

House Bill 1100—Child Care Providers and Employees--Bonuses

March 4, 2022

House Ways and Means 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 bills you are hearing today, House Bill 933, House Bill 993, House Bill 995 and House Bill 1100, are a step in the right direction to helping current struggling child care providers (both center-based and family) and the children, families and caregivers they support. 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 House Bills 933, 993, 995 and 1100.

2022 JCRC HB 933 Child Care Scholarship Program -

Uploaded by: Ashlie Bagwell

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of *House Bill 933 – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations (Maryland Childcare Working Families Act)*
Ways and Means Committee
March 4, 2022

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work tirelessly throughout the entire Greater Washington area to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents, support our Jewish day schools, childcare centers and community centers, and campaign for important policy interests on behalf of not only the Jewish community, but for all Marylanders.

The JCRC strongly supports affordable and accessible childcare. This commitment is rooted in the Jewish mandate to champion the poor and the needy. It is also our sense of ethical responsibility to ensure that all parents and their children have the ability to maintain their economic well-being and dignity. The impact of the pandemic on our childcare system can not be underestimated. According to the Maryland Early Childhood Advisory Council, there are 855 fewer childcare providers in Maryland today than in March 2020.

House Bill 933 is one measure to help expand and strengthen our childcare system. The Bill changes the eligibility requirements for determining a child's ability to qualify for the Child Care Scholarship Program. The Bill provides that a child who is determined eligible for the Program shall remain eligible for the following 12 months, regardless of changes in circumstances. HB 933 also establishes important Program copayment requirements for certain families making it easier for these families to afford the Program. To increase the number of affordable childcare slots, HB 933 caps the cost of childcare and allows families whose gross annual household income does not exceed 85% of the state's median income to get subsidized childcare. In an effort to make childcare available and affordable to everyone who needs it, we ask the committee for a favorable report on HB 933.

House Bill 933_Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Caroline Jiang

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Testimony to the Ways and Means Committee

In support of

House Bill 933: Child Care Scholarship Program- Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)

March 4, 2022

Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable vote on House Bill 933: Child Care Scholarship Program- Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act).

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future envisions a world-class system of public schools for our state's students. A contributor to the success of this world class education is high quality child care. From research spanning across high quality early childhood education and afterschool programs, there is much evidence to suggest that there are significant benefits to investing in child care. One longitudinal study showed that compared to fewer or no years of participation, children who had 4-6 years of early childhood education were associated with a 48% higher rate of degree completion (associate's degree or higher).¹ Another study found that high quality afterschool programs were associated with improved academic, social, and behavioral outcomes; high levels of participation with elementary and middle school students' showed gains of 12 percentiles in math achievement test scores.²

However, despite the benefits of childcare, this resource has not been readily available to everyone who needs it. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, child care providers were inaccessible mainly due to cost and limited availability. In 2017, a family of three in Maryland living at the poverty level would pay 14% of their income despite the fact that, at the time, federal requirements stated copayments should be no more than 7% of a family's income.³ Since March 2020, the state has seen 855 fewer childcare providers and there have been more shortages in the workforce partially due to families not having reliable child care.⁴

This bill would create some alterations to the current child care scholarship program by:

- Specifying eligibility requirements and ensuring that the State Department of Education is properly considering the annual income and size of a child's family when determining initial eligibility;
- Allowing a child to remain eligible for subsidized child care for the following 12 months despite changes in the status of the parent(s), residency within the state, increase in gross annual household income (with certain provisions), or if the child has reached 13 years of age (or 19 for children with special needs);

¹ Aurthur Reynolds et al., A Multicomponent, Preschool to Third Grade Preventive Intervention and Educational Attainment at 35 Years of Age, 2018,

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2668645>

² Deborah Vandell et al., "Outcomes Linked to High-Quality Afterschool Programs: Longitudinal Findings from the Study of Promising Afterschool Programs, 2007,

https://www.purdue.edu/hhs/hdfs/fii/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/s_iafis04c04.pdf

³ Rachel Baye, "Maryland Poor Getting Little Help on Childcare", 2017,

<https://www.wypr.org/wypr-news/2017-11-22/maryland-poor-get-little-help-on-childcare>

⁴ Elizabeth Shwe, "Lawmakers Tout Bills to Support Providers and Make Child Care More Affordable, 2022,

<https://www.marylandmatters.org/2022/02/11/lawmakers-tout-bills-to-support-providers-and-make-child-care-more-affordable/>

- Ensuring that children from families with very low income, children with families whose total assistance does not exceed \$1 million, and vulnerable children are a priority if a waiting list is implemented; and
- Establishing certain Child Care Scholarship Program copayment requirements for certain families.

High quality child care is the foundation to student success in a world class education system. By passing House Bill 933, the Maryland General Assembly would be providing students with benefits like social and emotional wellbeing that contribute towards later success for our state's future. Passing House Bill 933 would also offer greater opportunities for current parents and other caregivers to participate in the workforce. Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable report on House Bill 933.

If you have questions or requests for additional information, you can email:

Shamoyia Gardiner
Executive Director
shamoyia@strongschoolsmaryland.org

HB 995 and 933_MSCCA_Favorable (1) 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. We believe children are our most important natural resource and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

House Bill 933 and 995 Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations House Ways and Means Committee Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) enthusiastically supports House Bills 933 and 995. As a non-profit representing close to 5,000 child care professionals, we are appreciative and offer a sincere thanks to the General Assembly and especially to champions for child care and children - Delegates Solomon, Queen, and Ebersole for their advocacy, leadership and support for the important child care package of legislation.

MSCCA's priorities agenda includes ensuring families have access to affordable, consistent, quality child care options and to alleviate barriers for families and child care providers as child care is essential to the economy. We believe children are our most important natural resource and must meet the needs of all Maryland's children from birth to five and beyond. HB 995 aligns with these priorities and will address numerous obstacles and inequities to fix our child care scholarship system and support more deserving children and families.

Prior to the pandemic MSCCA conducted surveys of our members focused on child care scholarship/subsidy program as we were receiving many complaints about delays in payment for services rendered, families struggling with renewal paperwork and new families inquiring for child care being denied and unable to speak to anyone at MSDE to help them. MSCCA met with partner associations and co-hosted town halls focused on child care scholarship/subsidy to gain even more feedback, discussion and provide possible solutions to address concerns within this state system as more money is being invested in child care scholarships. We need an equitable, efficient way to support families, children and the child care businesses electing to accept subsidies/scholarships.

HB 995 will enhance efficiencies and assist MSDE by requiring them to work with national experts to review, update, streamline, and simplify the child care scholarship application to ensure it is accessible, equitable, clear, and easily completed by all families.

Presumptive eligibility is a key component of HB 995 that will allow families to enter or reenter the workforce or school immediately as they will be presumed eligible and be given time to provide documentation necessary for review for formal approval while their child/children are in a licensed legal child care setting. Without child care the workforce cannot work.

HB 995 will expand and expedite automatic access to additional benefits like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, housing vouchers, and Guaranteed Access therefore eliminating additional stress for families while creating a more efficient state system to serve our most at risk children/families.

HB 995 establishes in law a provider payment timeline requiring MSDE to pay child care providers participating in the child care scholarship program within 10 business days of receiving the full invoice. Child care small businesses have been deterred from participating in the scholarship program due to the delays in payment and communication issues. As struggling small, fully tuition dependent businesses, we cannot continue to subsidize the subsidy system. Stakeholders

utilizing the system should be considered and included to be successful. The system needs to change to support all those participating, including providers while still maintaining accountability measures for all.

MSCCA fully supports the four components of this bill as they will impact positive change for children, families and child care providers. Child care is the workforce behind the workforce. Maryland has lost over 900 child care businesses since January of 2020 and tens of thousands of slots creating access issues. We must find ways to support child care and families as it is an economic and equity imperative.

MSCCA urges a favorable report.

HB 995_MSCCA_Favorable final.pdf

Uploaded by: Christina Peusch

Position: FAV



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Maryland State Child Care Association

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House Bill 995 & 933 Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations House Ways and Means Committee Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) enthusiastically supports House Bills 995. As a non-profit representing close to 5,000 child care professionals, we are appreciative and offer a sincere thanks to the General Assembly and especially to champions for child care and children - Delegates Solomon, Queen, and Ebersole for their advocacy, leadership and support for the important child care package of legislation.

MSCCA's priorities agenda includes ensuring families have access to affordable, consistent, quality child care options and to alleviate barriers for families and child care providers as child care is essential to the economy. We believe children are our most important natural resource and must meet the needs of all Maryland's children from birth to five and beyond. HB 995 aligns with these priorities and will address numerous obstacles and inequities to fix our child care scholarship system and support more deserving children and families.

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HB 995 will expand and expedite automatic access to additional benefits like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, housing vouchers, and Guaranteed Access therefore eliminating additional stress for families while creating a more efficient state system to serve our most at risk children/families.

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MSCCA fully supports the four components of this bill as they will impact positive change for children, families and child care providers. Child care is the workforce behind the workforce. Maryland has lost over 900 child care businesses since January of 2020 and tens of thousands of slots creating access issues. We must find ways to support child care and families as it is an economic and equity imperative.

MSCCA urges a favorable report.

HB933

Uploaded by: David Fraser-Hidalgo

Position: FAV



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TO: Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbary, Chair
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: 03/4/2022
RE: HB0933 Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations 3 (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)

The MLLC supports HB0933 Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)

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 HB0933.

Hispanics and African Americans are most likely to have inadequate access to childcare. Many of them have essential frontline occupations that force them to send their children to child care centers regardless of the price. The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health conducted a [survey](#) to examine the most serious health and financial problems facing households across America. The survey findings report that 34% of families with young children are facing serious problems finding child care.¹ Many head of households reported that they are paying as much as their rent's worth on childcare. The inadequate supply of child care centers paired with the high cost, forces parents to live paycheck to paycheck.

This bill will increase the funding amount and extend the period of time families are eligible for benefits. It aims to ensure families are not paying over 7% of household income on child care. There is strong evidence that child care subsidies increase employment and earnings for low to median income families. Daycare subsidies have also shown to increase enrollment in center-based care among children from families with low-median income. The increased enrollment will provide financial security to daycare centers struggling to remain open and will give low income children access to provider based childcare which is often higher quality than non-family home-based care.²

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0933.

1. *FCAB and the role of Social Work - CPB-US-W2.wpmucdn.com.* (n.d.). Retrieved March 3, 2022, from <https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/sites.wustl.edu/dist/a/1278/files/2016/05/CSD-FCAB-and-the-Role-of-Social-Work-References-7.12.2021.pdf>
2. *Child care subsidies.* County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (n.d.). Retrieved March 3, 2022, from https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health/strategies/child-care-subsidies#footnote_1

HB0933 - 03.04.22-- Child Care Scholarship Program

Uploaded by: Donald Fry

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 933– CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM- ALTERATIONS (MARYLAND CHILD CARE WORKING FAMILIES ACT)

Sponsor: Delegate Queen (By Request – Study Group on Economic Stability), et al

March 4, 2022

DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports House Bill 933, which would specify eligibility requirements for the Child Care Scholarship Program, administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), as well as outline factors to be used when determining a child’s eligibility for a scholarship under the program. The bills also ensures that if a child’s circumstances improve, the scholarship does not immediately end. Finally, the bill creates parameters for the amount of copayment based on a family’s financial circumstances.

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.

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. The provisions in House Bill 933 would provide guidance to ensure that those who are in most need of child care scholarships are prioritized, as well as making certain that a modest increase of income does not trigger an immediate end to the assistance. In turn, businesses will benefit from having employees with reliable child care, thereby stabilizing the company’s workforce.

House Bill 933 is consistent with one of the key tenets in *Gaining a 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 933.

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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Support- HB 933 Child Care Scholarship Program-Alt

Uploaded by: Flora Gee

Position: FAV



Flora Gee, Director
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Email: flora@greenbeltchildrenscenter.com

February 28, 2022

To the Members of the House Ways and Means Committee-

As a preschool Owner/Director for 30 years in Prince George's County, I have always helped families who qualify for the Child Care Scholarship Voucher. At present, 30% of our enrollment has a state voucher, allowing them access to a nationally accredited, Level 5 (highest) rated program. There are other families not able to access the state subsidy because the family income level is deemed too high. However, many of these working families lack the financial resources to pay the full cost of care.

All families want access to high-quality care and education for their child, but not all families have the resources or are eligible for the state subsidy, which would give them equity and access. Sometimes families have been told they are not eligible for the subsidy program because the child support arrangement for the children's health insurance, paid by the non-custodial parent, counts as income. This amount has knocked them off the eligibility level for the State Subsidy, even though there are no additional funds coming into the household that might help with tangible items such as food, shelter or child care. HB 933 would consider a ***percentage of family income used to pay for childcare***, a much fairer process.

The pandemic has had a negative effect on child care programs because enrollment drastically declined. We have a workforce crisis and need workers to return to employment. HB 933 would enable more families to choose safe high-quality care and education, and the enrollment would bolster child care providers and programs to continue to operate. Please pass HB 933 as an important step in supporting our children, families, early educators, employers, and our state economy.

Sincerely,
Flora Gee, M.Ed.

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_HB 933.pdf

Uploaded by: Garrett O'Day

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 4, 2022

**House Bill 933
Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working
Families Act)**

House Ways and Means Committee

SUPPORT

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in SUPPORT to House Bill 933. 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 933 provides key eligibility guidelines for the Child Care Scholarship Program. This legislation seeks to ensure subsidy continuity in the provision of child care, with particular provisions ensure continuity for lower-income children, as well as those with disabilities.

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 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has supported proposals seeking to "expand assistance to parents with children and improve family formation and stability." (*Letter to Congress on Child Tax Credit*, USCCB, 2016). In the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace asserted that all persons deserve "a wage sufficient to maintain a family and allow it to live decently... There can be several different ways to make a family wage a concrete reality. Various forms of important social provisions help to bring it about, for example, family subsidies and other contributions for dependent family members..." The parameters put for in House Bill 933 are tangible way to achieve this stability for low-income families throughout the state with regard to the provision of child care.

The Conference appreciates your consideration, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 933.

PGCRC-HB933.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Iverson

Position: FAV

March 2, 2022

**Testimony Concerning Support for:
HB 933 Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations (MD Child Care Working Families Act)**

Submitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means

Jennifer Iverson, Executive Director

Prince George’s Child Resource Center, Inc.

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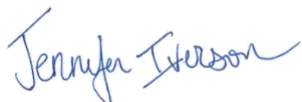
We urge your support for legislation that will benefit working families, and the struggling child care providers that serve them.

Prince George’s Child Resource Center envisions vibrant, healthy communities where individuals and families care, support, and advocate for each other and invest in creating opportunities for children to develop strong, successful life paths. The Resource Center has been working tirelessly since 1990 to support both child care providers in their efforts to strive for quality in their child care programs, and parents as they seek child care where their children can thrive.

Child care providers across the nation continue to struggle as they recover during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Child care providers are in crisis, and so are families, and Prince George’s County is no exception. In Prince George’s County, area child care providers are experiencing deep challenges with funding/finances, staffing and enrollment which are all totally intertwined. The stabilization funds offered in 2021 were an important step. There is more to be done. The quality of child care, and the experience of the birth-to-five years, are crucial to school readiness and supporting working families.

HB933 strengthens family eligibility so that more families have more choices and access to the child care programs that meet their needs, which would have a tremendous stabilizing impact for families and for their child care provider. In addition to expanding family eligibility for scholarship, the bill calls for 12-month eligibility regardless of changes in family income or employment. Prioritizing the waiting list to families with very low incomes and ensuring a sliding fee scale for families in the expanded scholarship program will help both providers and families.

Thank you for your leadership for our community. Together we can help child care programs to stay open successfully and offer more choices for families, when we make sure that all the pieces and parts of policy ideas come together. Again, I urge your support for HB933.



WDC Testimony HB0933-2022_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnne Koravos

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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www.womensdemocraticclub.org

**House Bill 0933 - Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)
Ways and Means Committee – March 4, 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 passage of HB0933 - Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act). This bill specifies the requirements that shall be used by Maryland's Child Care Scholarship Program (CSS) in determining a child's initial eligibility in order to increase targeting of the program to those most in need. The CSS provides financial assistance with childcare costs with eligible working families in Maryland. Eligibility criteria shall include whether a child is a vulnerable child (in danger of abuse or neglect) and whether the child resides with a parent whose gross income does not exceed 85 percent of the State's median income. This bill also ensures that a child will remain eligible for 12 months following eligibility regardless of changes in a family's circumstances, provided that the family's gross annual income does not exceed 150 percent of the maximum allowable federal poverty level. This bill establishes that children in families with very low-income and vulnerable children shall have priority for any waiting list.

This bill aims to increase the number of affordable childcare slots by targeting families most in need and providing greater stability for families by ensuring that eligibility continues for 12 months for most families, despite changes in family circumstances. The availability of affordable, predictable, quality childcare is a significant factor in a woman's ability to remain in the workforce and provide for her family – especially for low-and moderate-income families.

We ask for your support for HB0933 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report. To maintain our competitive edge as a State, we need to keep women in our workforce.

Respectfully,

Leslie Milano
President

HB 0993.pdf

Uploaded by: Katie Young

Position: FAV

**Testimony Concerning H.B 0993, the Early Childhood Education –Child Care Capital
Support Revolving Loan Fund
Submitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means**

HB 0993

My name is Katie Young and I am in favor of House Bill 0993. The cost to open and operate a high quality Childcare center has increase over 20% since the COVID 19 pandemic. How do I know this? Because I am the girl who prior to COVID 19 was finally able to bring her life long dream to life. For the past 10 years I have been a school director in a high quality childcare center, Celebree School. In 2019 my husband and I decided to invest everything we have so I could become a Celebree franchisee. The fact that I would be able to provide high quality care in a community that I loved was a feeling of euphoria. I can not put into words how emotional it was to be a part of something that I have been living and breathing for so long. There are truly no words.

This high was quickly shattered once we had to reevaluate our start up cost. Our \$1.4 million dollar start up increased to \$2 million over night. My husband and I are your typical blue-collar workers. He does HVAC for a living, and I run a Celebree School. We would never be approved for a \$1 million loan. This is only feasible by making more sacrifices then anyone would truly understand.

Did you know that on average 75% of childcare franchisee's have zero childcare or education experience? But what they do have is money. They have the ability to pay a 20% cash injection for a SBA loan. In fact, most of them have the money to pay cash up front. This amount of money is something that your typical childcare provider or HVAC worker have. On the flip side, what the 75% does not have is the experience and passion that someone like I do. Unfortunately for most school directors, they will never be given the opportunity to own and operate their own "high quality" school. HB 0993 can be the difference maker for us!

High quality comes at a cost. A cost that I can validate the why behind. Unfortunately, with the current state of our economy and without HB 0993, it is nearly impossible for a "Katie" to be a part of furthering Early Childhood Education in Maryland. I know I would want a Katie to educate my children.

testimony-child-care-bill-package-March-2022 .pdf

Uploaded by: Laurice Brame

Position: FAV

March 2, 2022

**Testimony Concerning Support for:
HB 933 Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)
HB 993 Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund – Established
HB 995 Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations
HB 1100 – Child Care Providers and Employees – Bonuses**

Submitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means

Laurice Brame

Antioch Child Care Center
13205 Old Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
lbrame@antiochccc.com

We urge your support for legislation to help ensure a thriving childcare system in Maryland.

Childcare providers across the nation continue to struggle as they recover during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Childcare providers are in crisis, and so are families, and Prince George's County is no exception. I am no exception. In the last two years, we have experienced (low enrollment and families that can't afford to pay the tuition because their hours on their job have been decrease.)

Insert some things about you/your program, for instance:

- We are a licensed childcare center
- We are currently active in Maryland Excels
- We accept scholarship/subsidy families who pay with scholarship/subsidy
- Your licensed capacity is 77 and we have 56 enrolled now. We have a lot of part time parents.
- Our staff has been cut in half. We lost our second location due to the pandemic.

In Prince George's County, area childcare providers like me are experiencing deep challenges with funding/finances, staffing and enrollment which are all totally intertwined. The stabilization funds offered in 2021 were an important step. There is more to be done.

We need help rebuilding our businesses and keeping our quality, relationship-based practices strong, so we can be there for working parents and for young children. The quality of child care, and the experience of the birth-to-five years, are crucial to school readiness and supporting working families.

Insert your own ideas about what a difference it would make to have...

- Access to hiring bonuses for new staff would have with the on-boarding process and give the newly hire individual an opportunity to get started without a lot of out-of-pocket cost which they might not have.
- Access to a revolving loan fund to make changes to your program's physical spaces, with 5 years to repay would benefit our program in ways that would impact the children growth and safety.
- Families with access to presumptive eligibility for childcare scholarship can enroll their children without fear of having to lose a new job while waiting on approval. This bill will also help

childcare programs by receiving payment for providing care during the approval time of the voucher even if the parent doesn't get approved.

- Payment from MSDE 10 days after you invoice them is a necessity to budget and plan. (
- Families relieved from the burden of compliance with child support should have in some cases, but not all. Only when they are experiences challenges that will prevent them from starting a new job.
- Families relieved from co pays when they experience challenges, with payment from MSDE instead is a very good idea. I believe this is a great idea. Parent may really be in a financial hardship.
- Stronger family eligibility policies and practices so that more families have choices and access to the childcare programs that meet their needs. I agree totally.

We must continue to take steps to stabilize the childcare sector and the well-being of people who work in childcare, and we must also rebuild child care better than before.

Thank you for your leadership for our community. Together we can help childcare programs to stay open successfully and offer more choices for families when we make sure that all the pieces and parts of policy ideas come together.

Meena Gaafar testimony-child-care-bill-package-Mar

Uploaded by: Meena Gaafar

Position: FAV

March 2, 2022

**Testimony Concerning Support for:
HB 933 Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)
HB 993 Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund – Established
HB 995 Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations
HB 1100 – Child Care Providers and Employees – Bonuses**

Submitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means

Labor,

Meena Gaafar

Meena Gaafar Family Child Care

6619 Magnolia Terrace, Lanham, MD 20706

301-552-2377

Sparklinkids6619@yahoo.com

We urge your support for legislation to help ensure a thriving child care system in Maryland.

Child care providers across the nation continue to struggle as they recover during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Child care providers are in crisis, and so are families, and Prince George's County is no exception. I am no exception. In the last two years, we have experienced drop in enrollment, which means drop in income, increase cost of PPEs, food, and all other cost of operating our business.

Insert some things about you/your program, for instance:

- I am a licensed child care provider for the last thirty years
- I am on MDEXCELS
- I accept children on scholarship
- My licensed capacity is 8. I currently have 4 full-time and 4 part-time children
- I cannot hire staff because I have fluctuating enrollment

In Prince George's County, area child care providers like me are experiencing deep challenges with funding/finances, staffing and enrollment which are all totally intertwined. The stabilization funds offered in 2021 were an important step. There is more to be done.

We need help rebuilding our businesses and keeping our quality, relationship-based practices strong, so we can be there for working parents and for young children. The quality of child care, and the experience of the birth-to-five years, are crucial to school readiness and supporting working families.

Support from HB933, HB993, HB995 and HB1100 will help with:

- Access to hiring bonuses for new staff (that's HB 1100)
- Access to a revolving loan fund to make changes to my program's physical spaces, with 5 years to repay (that's HB 993)
- Families with access to presumptive eligibility for child care scholarship (that's HB 995)
- Payment from MSDE 10 days after you invoice them (that's HB 995)
- Families relieved from the burden of compliance with child support enforcement (that's HB 995)
- Families relieved from co pays when they experience challenges, with payment from MSDE instead (that's HB 995)

- Stronger family eligibility policies and practices so that more families have choices and access to the child care programs that meet their needs (that's HB 933)

We must continue to take steps to stabilize the child care sector and the well-being of people who work in child care, and we must also rebuild child care better than before.

Thank you for your leadership for our community. Together we can help child care programs to stay open successfully and offer more choices for families, when we make sure that all the pieces and parts of policy ideas come together.

MMF-Written Testimony-For HB 933.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Meher Hossain

Position: FAV

montgomery moving forward

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

**House Bill 933 -
Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)
House Ways and Means Committee
SUPPORT**

March 2, 2022

Esteemed Members of the House Ways and Means 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 HB 933, Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act). We are grateful for Delegate Queen's, Hill's, and Solomon's leadership and advocacy for the child care sector and the support by the entire Maryland General Assembly for your work on behalf of children, families, and 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.

HB 933 specifies, in part, certain eligibility requirements that the State Department of Education shall use and consider when determining a child's initial eligibility for the Child Care Scholarship Program; providing that a child who is determined eligible for the Program shall remain eligible for the following 12 months, regardless of certain changes in circumstances. In addition, HB 933 establishes certain copayment requirements to ensure that the most vulnerable children are able to access quality child care.

Without child care, the current workforce cannot work and the investment in our workforce of tomorrow will suffer. Montgomery Moving Forward and the Early Care and Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition support House Bill 933 and the opportunity it presents for creating a more equitable process for all parents seeking to participate in the child care scholarship program. HB 933 is an important building block towards creating a sustainable ECE system that both ensures accessible, affordable child care options for today's workforce and reliable investments in the workforce of tomorrow.

Early care and education is an economic and equity imperative and a pillar of Maryland's economy. **We urge you to give HB 933 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: Rosalba Bonilla, Maryland Director; **CentroNía**; Larry Bram, Senior Vice President, Innovation & Program Development, **Easter Seals Serving DC|MD|VA**; Bob Buchanan, Buchanan Partners and the 2030 Group; Jody Burghardt, Children and Family Services Division Director, **Sheppard Pratt**; **Francisco Cartagena**, I.T Project Manager, City of Gaithersburg; Ruby Daniels, President, **Maryland State Family Child Care Association**; Joanne Hurt, Executive Director, **Wonders Early Learning & Extended Day**; Tiffany Jones, Family Child Care Provider, **Montgomery County Head Start Parent Policy Council, Chair, Community Action Board**; Christina Lopez, President, **Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC)**; Benjamin Orr, President and CEO of **Maryland Center on Economic Policy**; Christina Peusch, Executive Director, **Maryland State Childcare Association**; Travis B. Simon, Director of Political and Legislative Affairs, **SEIU Local 500**

Testimony In Support of HB 933 - Maryland Child Ca

Uploaded by: Rich Ceruolo

Position: FAV



March 1, 2022

Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of HB 933: Child Care Scholarship Program - Maryland Working Families Child Care Act of 2022

Members of the Maryland House of Delegate's Ways and Means Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1400 plus members fully support HB 933.

We support any bill that improves inclusion and equity in education, child care and especially for persons or vulnerable children, very low-income families and children living with disabilities. I am quite positive that any parent or education stakeholder will have an interest in seeing that legislation is being crafted to help support all of Maryland's working families tackle the daunting issues around child care.

These types of services are now baked into the recipe of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and we taxpayers and education stakeholders have an obligation to the future, the children of our state. We especially have an obligation to help populations that have been marginalized for far too long in our state's history. The poor, and working families of our state. These families that need supports and services the most, especially after the last 2 years of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yes, we need data and to study the need that is currently out there across all of Maryland's communities. But we also need to be bold in our actions to help support working families afford quality child care and support services.

We thank the Delegate and Senator for bringing forward such a positive and transformative piece of legislation. It truly will have a positive impact on all of our citizens and help give them agency in all education decisions in their lives.

We ask that the committee please return a favorable report, and support HB 933. Thank you all for your time and consideration of our testimony.

Respectfully,

Mr. Richard Ceruolo | Director of Public Policy | richceruolo@gmail.com

Parent Advocacy Consortium (Find us on Facebook/Meta) |

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAdvocacyConsortium>

HB933& 995Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Ruth Carolina Reyes

Position: FAV



ARCO IRIS

BILINGUAL CHILDREN'S CENTER

March 2, 2022

Testimony Concerning Support for:

HB 933 Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)

HB 995 Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations

Submitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means

Ruth Carolina Reyes

Arco Iris Bilingual Children's Center

14502 Greenview Drive, suite102

301-483-8800 Center

301-538-1978 Cellular

arcoirisbcc@gmail.com

We urge your support for legislation to help ensure a thriving child care system in Maryland for our families.

Child care providers across the nation continue to struggle as they recover during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Child care providers are in crisis, and so are families; Prince George's County is no exception. I am also no exception. As the Owner/Director of Arco Iris Bilingual Children's Center, I have seen how my families have struggled paying for childcare during the last few years; it is unlike anything I have seen before. Many families want to come to my center because it is certified Maryland Excels level 3,

providing high quality education with well educated teachers in a unique bilingual environment. However, they cannot due to their economic means which do not give them access on their own. When these same families want to access the childcare scholarship they enter a system that is bureaucratic and burdensome.

The issue is the extensive and unprecedented delays in providing working families and single mothers the financial resources needed for their child care needs. This issue does not just impact families but also childcare providers since providers have to wait an extended period of time to obtain the scholarship money.

This bill HB933 and HB 995 will help many families very much and allow them the ability to access high quality centers like mine. It is now more pressing than ever to resolve this issue. Although the state has increased the income levels for child care scholarships, I have seen firsthand the extensive delays in answering working families and single mothers who often lack support systems. These families rely on child care centers to reenter the workforce. Therefore, providing the rapid and efficient assistance for these families is necessary, not only for them, but also the child care centers which are an essential ingredient for ensuring a healthy Maryland economy.

Sincerely,

R. Carolina Reyes

PGCRC-sample-testimony-child-care-bill-package-Mar

Uploaded by: Samantha Nelson

Position: FAV

March 2, 2022

**Testimony Concerning Support for:
HB 933 Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)
HB 993 Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund – Established
HB 995 Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations
HB 1100 – Child Care Providers and Employees – Bonuses**

Submitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means

**Samantha Nelson
Samantha's Family Child Care
7408 Walker Mill Road
Capitol Heights, MD 20743
301.333.0622
[Samantha FCC@yahoo.com](mailto:Samantha_FCC@yahoo.com)**

We urge your support for legislation to help ensure a thriving child care system in Maryland.

Child care providers across the nation continue to struggle as they recover during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Child care providers are in crisis, and so are families, and Prince George's County is no exception. I am no exception. In the last two years, I have experienced families having no child care, due to the delay in recertification. A few families had to complete the application out several times, due to the application being over 30 days, and the parent was unable to get a response back re: the status of their application.

I am a registered provider in P.G. County for over 13 years. I participate in the Maryland Excels on level 3 and is working on my Accreditation to further my Maryland Excels level. Once upon a time, I had 90 percent or greater, were scholarships families. Currently, I'm down to three families. I am licensed for eight children, and I'm currently down to 4 children and one will be leaving in a few weeks due to their age.

In Prince George's County, area child care providers like me are experiencing deep challenges with funding/finances, staffing and enrollment which are all totally intertwined. The stabilization funds offered in 2021 were an important step. There is more to be done.

We need help rebuilding our businesses and keeping our quality, relationship-based practices strong, so we can be there for working parents and for young children. The quality of child care, and the experience of the birth-to-five years, are crucial to school readiness and supporting working families.

It would be greatly appreciated if we/child care providers could receive bonuses for ourselves and our substitutes.

We must continue to take steps to stabilize the child care sector and the well-being of people who work in child care, and we must also rebuild child care better than before.

Thank you for your leadership for our community. Together we can help child care programs to stay open successfully and offer more choices for families, when we make sure that all the pieces and parts of policy ideas come together.

FAV BJC House Bill 933- Child Care Scholarship Pro

Uploaded by: Sarah Miicke

Position: FAV

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Howard County

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B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation

Bolton Street Synagogue

Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.

Chevrei Tzedek Congregation

Chizuk Amuno Congregation

Congregation Beit Tikvah

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Suburban Orthodox Congregation

Temple Beth Shalom

Temple Isaiah

Zionist Organization of America

Baltimore District



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 933- Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)

Ways and Means Committee – March 4, 2022 SUPPORT

Background: House Bill 933, (HB933) would alter the eligibility requirements of the the Child Care Scholarship Program. Under HB933, an eligible child must reside with a parent who is engaged in a qualifying activity or be a vulnerable child, reside in the state and reside with a parent whose gross income does to exceed 85% of the State's median income. In addition, other factors, including the annual income of the child's family and the size of the family are taken into account. An eligible child remains eligible for 12 months, even if there is a temporary change in the status of the parents, or a change of residency within the state, or an increase of household income, as long as it does not exceed 150% of the maximum allowable federal poverty level, or the child turns 13, or 19 if the child has special needs.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents that Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all its agencies, including Jewish Community Services (JCS). JCS provides financial support services to people in need, including linking them with Federal, State and Local benefits and programs. Many parents must make the hard choice between entering the workforce and affording child care. This disproportionately affects minorities, women and single parents.

Maryland has one of the highest costs (ranked number 7) of child care in the country, averaging over \$15,000 a year for infant care.¹ This is 67% of a minimum wage workers annual salary. The Child Care Scholarship Program is a lifesaver for low-income working parents, however, the program, as currently administered is burdensome for those trying to get back into the workforce or those with a temporary change in status. The reforms in HB933 would help more people be eligible for the Scholarship and remove the current barriers.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report on HB933.

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.

¹ <https://www.epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/MD>

