



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: 03/3/2022
RE: HB0995 Early Childhood Development – Child Care
Scholarship Program – Alterations

The MLLC supports HB0995 Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations

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 HB0995.

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 award a subsidy to help low-income families pay for child care. There is strong evidence that child care subsidies increase employment and earnings for low income families. The increased enrollment will provide financial security to daycare centers struggling to remain open. Thus, daycare subsidies have also shown to increase enrollment in center-based care among children from families with low incomes, 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 HB0995.

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