

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 995 Early Childhood Development – Chi

Uploaded by: Ashlie Bagwell

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of *House Bill 995 – Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations*
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 995 establishes a simplified process for becoming eligible for the Child Care Scholarship Program. It presumes families who apply for the Program are eligible so that they can immediately enroll while their applications are reviewed. It stipulates that costs during that presumed eligibility period would be paid with federal funds. Currently, it can take up to 90 days for the State to approve a childcare scholarship application. The Bill also would allow families who qualify for temporary cash assistance and supplemental security income to automatically qualify for the Program. Additionally, HB 995 requires the Department to pay childcare providers within 10 days of receipt of their invoice.

The JCRC is committed to streamlining the State's childcare scholarship application process to ensure that it is accessible to all families. In an effort to make childcare not only available, but also affordable, to everyone who needs it, we ask the committee for a favorable report on HB 995.

HB0995 -- Early Childhood Development – Child Care

Uploaded by: Brian Levine

Position: FAV



**House Bill 995 -- *Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations*
House Ways and Means Committee
March 4, 2022
Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports House Bill 995 -- *Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations*.

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 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 State's economy. The rapid workplace changes brought about by the COVID-19 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 House Bill 995 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.

*Brian Levine / Vice President of Government Affairs
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HB 995_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. 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 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.

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_MFN_FAV_Macsherry.pdf

Uploaded by: Clinton Macsherry

Position: FAV



**Additional Testimony from Child Care Providers Concerning HB 995 “Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations”
Submitted to the House Ways & Means Committee
March 4, 2022**

Position: **SUPPORT**

In addition to our organizational testimony in support of HB 995, Maryland Family Network presents the public comments of child care providers from all over our state who strongly support this legislation. Many of them share their own experiences and describe how improvements to the Child Care Scholarship Program (CCSP) would help Maryland families. We urge a favorable report for HB 995.

Delayed CCSP payments have caused me to gain late fees, spend several hours having to make payment arrangements. [Express lane eligibility] would be a win, win to all involved. Why should a parent have to apply to so many agencies? Applying to assistance should be a one stop shop. With so many nonprofit agencies allowing scholarships just based on income a parent will go there first before having to go through all of the back and forth with the scholarship program. I feel presumptive eligibility would benefit because parents wouldn't have to wait a month to start a job or school. My only concern how long will the final process take and what happens if the final result be denial.

Rhonda Darrell Watson, Columbia

[CCSP administration is] so bad-I am still missing payments from an invoice paid incorrectly in August even though I have sent an inquiry and notified the Asst Deputy twice. "We'll look into it" and no payment still in February of 2022... The CCS program is so poorly run and the record keeping and audits are exhaustive. Many providers are now opting out.

A simplified CCSP application is needed. I have a Master's in Education and I am unsure what some questions are asking for, whether the answer should be yes or no because of the wording or which family member should be listed in some sections.

Presumptive eligibility-- for a parent just re-entering the workforce, who is offered employment and does not have the resources to pay for child care (Registration Fee, Deposit and Tuition) before they get the first paycheck, can't wait 30 days or longer to receive a voucher to submit to a program. So the choices are don't take the job or choose unlicensed child care.

Flora Gee, Prince George's County

I am an owner of a Maryland Childcare Center. The Night Watch Childcare- the state's only fully overnight childcare center. Over 90% of my parents are on scholarship. The inconstant



information my parents receive and the slow communication makes it very hard to help parents through the complicated process. Parents are being rejected because they are sending jpegs versus a PDF. There are extra forms parents need to use that are not clearly explained on the application. Only 5 day notice is sent by mail about vouchers expiring, so they are expired by the time we get the letter. I have parents having large balances as we wait for vouchers to come through or be redetermined when their circumstances haven't changed.

It is challenging for parents who are reentering the workforce and do not have paystubs. I either lose business or foot the bill while we wait for paperwork to be processed. It shouldn't take 30 days to review 6--7 pieces of paper. Please allow parents to get funding ASAP. and give them a deadline to submit paystubs. Because of delayed CCSP payments, I have had to borrow money from my parents and take out predatory funding advancements to pay wages and rent. With presumptive eligibility, new moms coming back from maternity leave or just going back to work could get funding faster. Families with multiple kids struggle to pay for childcare. 30 days to hear that they sent a jpeg of their ID instead of a PDF or finding out that they needed an employment verification statement (which is NOT on the application) delays funding. I am currently footing the bill and offering payment plans to help parents who are just going back to work and do not have paystubs. The 4 weeks worth of paystubs is holding things up DRASTICALLY. I offer the payment plan, but if we hear 8 weeks later (4 weeks of stubs and then 30 days for processing) that they are not eligible because they missed a form or now the paystubs are outdated, it holds things up.

Amy Heger, Salisbury

Delayed CCSP payments have affected me. It took forever to get money. A simplified CCSP application process would help parents who work with a lower income and more siblings. Presumptive eligibility would make it much convenient, less of stress, and less work.

Josephine Chan, Gaithersburg

By CCSP payments coming in late, it delays what needs to be done. A simplified CCSP application process would help families tremendously. Presumptive eligibility would help families that are in need of child care to get it immediately.

Millis Gregory, Prince George's County

Our parents need help with childcare, some of them cannot afford it, they need to get back to work. If parents can't afford childcare, they will keep their children home and I won't have to hire anyone. We won't have children and that's what is happening now. Our parents need help from all of us, including our government. Presumptive eligibility would help because some parents can't wait the 30 days or the employer would choose another candidate.

Delayed CCSP payments made me late on some of my bills.

Lisa Tate, Baltimore

I am a home daycare provider, and my daycare is my income to pay my bills, keep my doors open. I have gone up to 3 more months without receiving payments from family and scholarship. My bills would be late and on top of that would get late fees because of it. I have lost so much money taking scholarship families the past 5 years. Always receiving my payment more than 2 to 3 months for some families

A simplified CCSP application process would help the families out a lot because they don't understand what is happening and what they are filling out.

Presumptive eligibility would help the families out a lot. But I would need to make sure I would be paid for my time because I have lost a lot of families owing me hundreds of dollars due to applications not being approved. The families getting free childcare and not getting 1 cent in the past from families.

Maria Rosella Franklin, Baltimore County

Simplified CCSP applications would decrease burden on families to try to access childcare. Presumptive eligibility helps families have faster access to childcare and relieves stress on families who need childcare in order to work. It is extremely stressful on families to delay childcare and lose work opportunities that arise while they are waiting.

Jenna R. Silverman, Columbia

[Improving the CCSP application process] would help more families to obtain quality child care with qualified staff. Lower enrollment equals less income. It would encourage more families to seek assistance for quality child care. Attention to these Child Care Bills are sincerely needed! (Loans, Scholarships, and Bonuses).

Delores Robinson, Fort Washington

Child Support

I had 1 family that had father on child support and father hasn't paid anything over 2 years and her job changed and she couldn't afford fulltime care. Scholarship wouldn't pay anymore because they were adding the child support as income and father hasn't paid anything over 2 years. Which wasn't right and the mother had to pull her child from my program.

Out of state NY child support case filed, and mother moved to MD filed for vouchers and filed for her 2 kids. But child with NY dad that she has no clue his whereabouts. Didn't receive scholarship. I let parent go because of other issues but kids mother owes me \$223 still.

Maria Rosella Franklin, Baltimore County

Parents often have an arrangement and reporting the other parent to child support enforcement is something they don't want to do, for reasons that may include creating more disharmony and less cooperation than they have already. I have seen the amount paid for health insurance by a non-custodial parent be used as income and knock a family out of the eligibility range to qualify for CCS.

Flora Gee, Prince George's County

Some women are afraid to go to child support, due to retaliation of their spouse. They are trying to work and sometimes can't depend on the fathers. They are the single parent.

Some women are afraid of retaliation from the fathers or sometimes the mother.

Lisa Tate, Baltimore County

I had parents wouldn't apply because of fear of the other parent. They also felt it was unfair if they had a prior child support case the payment was included even if the parent didn't pay.

Rhonda Darrell Watson

Some of my parents have unofficial agreements with fathers. Some are leaving domestic violence situations, but do not have all of the court orders in place. It is just one more large step moms have to take to get funding.

Amy Heger, Salisbury

There is much difficulty in moms receiving child support from 'dead beat dads'. This is a real deterrent.

Delores Robinson, Fort Washington

HB995

Uploaded by: David Fraser-Hidalgo

Position: FAV



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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

HB995 Written Support- Child Care Scholarship.pdf

Uploaded by: Demaune Millard

Position: FAV



Testimony in Support of House Bill 995

Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations

To: Chair Vanessa Atterbeary and Members of the Ways & Means Committee

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

Date: March 4, 2022

Family League of Baltimore (Family League) supports House Bill 995 as it would require the State Department of Education to establish a certain process for granting presumptive eligibility for a subsidy under the Child Care Scholarship Program; require the Department to award a certain subsidy to an individual who submits certain proof; prohibit the Department from requiring an individual to take certain actions to be eligible for a certain subsidy; require the Department to pay a certain child care provider within 10 days of receipt of an invoice from a child care provider.

This bill is necessary for families across Maryland, specifically the city of Baltimore as childcare enrollment can be a hassle because of the cost. Most children come from working families and not being able to afford to send their kids to childcare because they cannot afford it can be a hindrance. While there are families that have access to the scholarship, some are reluctant to apply because of the barriers that are in place. For instance, some children are in two parent households and the current law requires the applying parent to apply for child support, this takes that requirement away. This dynamic can be an issue because sometimes two parent households can still equate to low-income and financial struggles. Another issue with current requirements for families is the lengthy application and vocabulary used for applying, so allowing families to receive Temporary Cash Assistance and Social Security Income to automatically be eligible could lift a burden.

While families have been impacted by the current child care scholarship laws, providers have been as well. Providers are reluctant to accept scholarship children because of the length of time they have to wait to receive payment. This causes them to either turn children away or hold spot for an unknown length of time until the payment is received. HB995 would require the department to issue payment within 10 days of receiving the invoice from the childcare provider causing financial relief, especially to smaller, family operated ones. With the passage of this bill providers can accept more children and families can send their children to daycare while they continue to work.

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 communities for children, youth, and families. We support HB995 in particular because of its alignment with the result areas that work to ensure *Children Are Successful in School* and *Families Are Economically Stable*.

For more information contact Keontae Kells, Executive Administrator kkells@familyleague.org

HB0995 - 03.04.22-- Early Childhood Development -

Uploaded by: Donald Fry

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

**HOUSE BILL 995– EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT –
CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM- ALTERATIONS**

Sponsor: Delegate Solomon

March 4, 2022

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

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports House Bill 995, which would specify eligibility requirements for the Child Care Scholarship Program, administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), as well as to ensure that an applicant can receive the scholarship while waiting for eligibility determination. The bill also provides that individuals will not be required to pay a copay for child care if they are receiving other various public assistance benefits, including Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, Temporary Cash Assistance, and a Guaranteed Access Grant for higher education.

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 995 would provide guidance to ensure that those who are in most need of child care scholarships can immediately receive assistance, and limits co-pays for those least able to pay them. In turn, businesses will benefit from having employees with reliable child care, thereby stabilizing the company’s workforce.

House Bill 995 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 995.

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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SEIU Local 500 - HB 995 Child Care Scholarship Pro

Uploaded by: Fatima Whitmore

Position: FAV



Hearing Testimony March 4, 2022
House Ways and Means Committee
Service Employees International Union, Local 500, CtW, CLC

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

SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the 20,000 working people in our region represented by SEIU Local 500, we offer our strong support for **House Bill 995**. Our union represents the support staff at the Montgomery County Public School system, Family Child Care Providers, Faculty at institutions of higher education, staff at non-profits, and many other working people across the region.

As the union for family child care providers across the state, we would like to thank Delegate Solomon for his steadfast leadership on issues impacting the child care community and working families. HB 995 would require the State Department of Education to pay child care providers within 10 days of receipt of an invoice. This will address the unstable income providers have faced due to delays or non-payments from the Child Care Scholarship (Maryland State Childcare Association). Delayed payments or non-payments have been a consistent issue that our members face throughout the state. The inconsistent payments from the state have forced many Family Child Care providers to leave the industry. Their departure from providing child care has resulted in fewer family child care centers from being open and providing accessible child care for that would allow workers to return to the workforce.

Our working members often have children at home, and require access to child care so that they can fully focus on their duties in the workplace. It is essential that our members are not forced to choose between their careers and their children's safety, so ensuring access to child care, especially for our low-income members, is of the utmost importance.

Low-income families have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in regards to access to child care. According to the Maryland State Childcare Association, programs serving mostly higher-income families were almost twice as likely as those serving low-income families to report being physically open. Even federally-funded after-school programs in high-poverty neighborhoods were more likely to be closed during the first summer of the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing cost and availability issues, leading to child care deserts in many areas across the state.

Now is the time to make sure our low-income members do not continue to be left behind. Awarding a subsidy that eliminates a copay for individuals involved in the Child Care Scholarship Program allows increased access to child care services for the families that need it most. Ensuring individuals who receive this subsidy are in education or career training programs and who receive benefits like WIC, SNAP, federal housing choice voucher, guaranteed access grant, supplemental security income benefits or temporary cash

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Pia Morrison, President



assistance will allow these families greater opportunity for economic, familial, and career-related prosperity.

HB 995 promises to address the disparities in access to child care for low-income families while relieving providers of the stress that comes with an unstable income. **For these reasons, SEIU Local 500 supports this legislation.**

Service Employees International Union, Local 500, CtW, CLC
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Testimony Support HB 995.pdf

Uploaded by: Flora Gee

Position: FAV



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March 2, 2022

**Testimony Concerning Support for:
HB 995 Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations**

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. We were ordered closed by the Governor and reopened before vaccines were available, risking our health. We knew our community needed us. However, enrollment was very low during the past two years because parents were hesitant to return children to group care. Parents are now trying to enroll and there is a staffing crisis that could result in closing classrooms or keeping families on waitlists. Additionally, we had multiple closures due to Covid outbreaks and quarantines. Some parents left because they did not want to pay when they were not receiving service yet we still needed to pay our staff and have revenue for all the other operating expenses.

Greenbelt Children's Center has been licensed since 1990 and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children since 1999. We have operated a public Prekindergarten classroom for 22 years, in partnership with our local school system. We have achieved and maintained the highest level, Level 5, in the Maryland EXCELS Quality Rating and Improvement System from inception. Our program has always accepted economically disadvantaged families who are eligible for the State Child Care Subsidy/Scholarship program. Currently 20% of our capacity of 60 children, have vouchers that allows access for their children to high quality preschool. When we reopened, we were not able to have all staff return. Almost everyone working here has a compromised health condition. Most returned anyway but some have never returned because they are in ongoing treatments and their immune system puts them at very high risk. We are exhausted from all the extra duties required of us during the pandemic, but we have few resources for substitutes so that our teachers can have respite and take a day off. Burnout is threatening the ones who are present and I am in fear of losing highly qualified teachers because there are none standing in line to apply.

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. Here are things that could help us:

- Access to the Child Care Subsidy/Scholarship by presumptive eligibility because low income workers can't pay the full cost of care for 30 days while the state slogs through the process of determining them as eligible, before they can even earn a paycheck.
- Payment from MSDE 10 days after we send an invoice and enough staff to quickly troubleshoot and make prompt payment when there is a problem that needs solving.
- Relieve families from the burden of compliance of child support enforcement.
- Relieve families from co-pays, when they are experiencing challenges. Require MSDE to make the payments for them.

Please help us to stay open and be here for our community that needs us very much! 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.

Sincerely,
Flora L Gee, M.Ed.
Director

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_HB 995.pdf

Uploaded by: Garrett O'Day

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 4, 2022

**House Bill 995
Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations**

House Ways and Means Committee

SUPPORT

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in SUPPORT to House Bill 995. 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 995 establishes a process for presumptive eligibility for families for the Maryland Child Care Scholarship Program. This legislation requires the Maryland State Department of Education to award a subsidy under the program in an amount sufficient to ensure that a parent or guardian will not have to pay a copay for child care if they show participation in WIC, SNAP, SSI, TCA or other programs.

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 995 are a tangible way to achieve this stability for low-income families throughout the state. Child Care is an essential component to supporting strong, economically secure families and thus the Church supports this bill as a part of its priority interest in alleviating poverty. Enabling 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 Conference appreciates your consideration, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 995.

HB995_Hannah Matthews _CLASP_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Hannah Matthews

Position: FAV

Maryland House of Delegates Ways & Means Committee – Bill Hearing
Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations – HB0995
Testimony of Hannah Matthews, Center for Law and Social Policy
March 4, 2022

Delegate Atterbeary, Delegate Solomon, and members of the committee: thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of the Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations Act. I am Hannah Matthews, Deputy Executive Director for Policy at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). CLASP is a national, non-profit in Washington, DC advancing policy solutions that improve the lives of people with low incomes. I have spent my career advancing federal and state policies to make child care assistance a more stable support for families with low incomes.

This legislation will strengthen the Maryland Child Care Scholarship Program by making scholarships more accessible for eligible families, reducing copayments for many families, and enhancing stability for child care providers. With this legislation, Maryland will adopt best practices in child care subsidy policies, leading the way for other states.

The Scholarship Program is a crucial support for more than 11,000 Maryland families.¹ It helps parents work and helps children learn and grow. These goals can be compromised, however, by administrative policies that make it difficult for families to obtain and keep scholarships. Burdensome processes hurt those in greatest need and exacerbate inequities.² What may appear to be simple tasks such as disclosing income and employment can, in fact, be complex for individuals whose work hours or earnings fluctuate—a significant share of workers earning low wages and disproportionately workers of color.

“Presumptive eligibility,” which allows families access to care while completing their applications, will ensure timely access to care when it is needed -- an important improvement to get families back to work following the pandemic. This grace period allows families and the Department time to complete and process applications, without jeopardizing a parent’s new job or educational opportunity.

The bill also eliminates the burdensome requirement to comply with child support enforcement as a condition of eligibility for scholarships. While the requirement is intended to increase participation in the child support program, it can serve as a barrier to access-- disproportionately impacting single parents and parents of color. Just 13 states, including Maryland, condition child care eligibility on cooperation with child support enforcement, with several states moving away from this policy in recent years.³

Finally, the bill ensures timely payments for child care providers. The COVID 19 pandemic has made visible the financial fragility of child care programs—due to systemic underinvestment in the sector. Child care programs operate on very thin margins; predictability in payments offers some stability and relief to providers who rely on public subsidies.

This legislation will support children, families, and child care providers, while strengthening a vital program so crucial to the economy. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Child Care and Development Fund Statistics FY 2019 (preliminary)*, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/data/fy-2019-ccdf-data-tables-preliminary>,

² Executive Office Of The President, Office Of Management And Budget, *Study to Identify Methods to Assess Equity: Report to the President, 2021*, https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/OMB-Report-on-E013985-Implementation_508-Compliant-Secure-v1.1.pdf; Matthews and Adams, *Confronting the Child Care Eligibility Maze*, CLASP and Urban Institute, 2013, <https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/public/resources-and-publications/publication-1/WSS-CC-Paper.pdf>

³ National Conference of State Legislatures, *Child support enforcement as a requirement for child care assistance, 2021*.

PGCRC-HB995.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Iverson

Position: FAV

March 2, 2022

**Testimony Concerning Support for:
HB 995: Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations**

Submitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means

Jennifer Iverson, Executive Director

Prince George’s Child Resource Center, Inc.

9475 Lottsford Road, Suite 202, Largo, MD 20774

(301) 772-8420, ext. 1005

jiverson@pgcrc.org

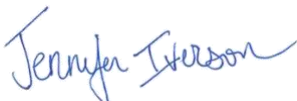
We urge your support for legislation that will benefit working families, and the struggling child care providers that serve them.

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.

HB 995 has the potential to eliminate barriers that families are currently facing when attempting to access the child care scholarship. **As the Child Care Resource Center for Prince George’s County, we hear directly from parents who have had to reject employment offers because they could not get the scholarship processed; and we hear from providers who are no longer willing to accept scholarship since they cannot count on payment. This has a disastrous impact on families, providers, and our economy.** The scholarship program, and tying it to EXCELS (Maryland’s quality rating system), was designed so that children with little access to resources could enroll in high-quality child care programs. **The current state of scholarship administration is actually causing the opposite:** the highest quality providers, who can fill their programs with full-pay children, choose not to provide care for lower-income children. This is increasing inequity in Maryland, and if this goes unchecked, we will see disparities school readiness increase.

Of all the hard decisions you need to make as legislators, this is an easy one. Presumptive eligibility means access for families and timely payments means child care businesses can be further stabilized in these difficult times.

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 HB 995.



WDC Testimony HB0995-2022_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

**House Bill 0995 - Early Childhood Development - Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations
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 HB0995 - Early Childhood Development - Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations. This bill requires the State Department of Education to grant presumptive eligibility under the Maryland's Child Care Scholarship Program (CSS) to a family who already participates in certain income-qualified programs. The CSS provides financial assistance with child care costs to eligible working families in Maryland. These "presumptive benefit" programs include the Federal Special Supplemental Food Program for Women and Infants (WIC); Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Federal Choice Voucher Program; Maryland Guaranteed Access Grant Program; Federal Supplemental Security Income Benefits Program (SSI); Temporary Cash Assistance Program (TANF); and employment or enrollment in a qualified education or career training program. This bill also requires the establishment of a streamlined application process for "presumptive benefit" applicants including an on-line certification. A qualified individual shall receive benefits pending review. The CSS subsidy shall be sufficient in such that no co-pay will be required. Furthermore, an individual is not required to pursue or receive child support in order to qualify, and the Department shall pay a child care providers within 10 days after the Department receives an invoice.

This legislation would simplify and streamline the child care scholarship application process for families that already qualify for other means-tested programs. This legislation also requires timely CSS payments for childcare providers, many of which are small businesses that operate with tight financial margins, and for which delayed payments can mean an inability to make payrolls.

We ask for your support for HB0995 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 995 -Final - Early Childhood Development – Chil

Uploaded by: Justin Hayes

Position: FAV



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

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

Ways and Means Committee

March 4, 2022

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **House Bill 995 - Early Childhood Development - Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations**. I would like to thank Delegate Solomon for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

Child care is an essential, and sometimes costly service that many families rely on each week. With current child care scholarship applications taking up to 90 days to process, many providers and families are placed in a difficult position and left without viable care options. House Bill 995 would make changes to the Child Care Scholarship Program and allow for immediate enrollment while the State verifies the application. House Bill 995 would also require that child care providers are issued payment within ten days after the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) receives the invoice.

These program alterations will expedite the eligibility and payment processes, advancing needed relief for families and providers. For the reasons stated above, and the future of our children, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for House Bill 995. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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HB 995_MFN_FAV_Weeldreyer.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Weeldreyer

Position: FAV



Testimony Concerning HB 995
“Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship
Program – Alterations”
Submitted to the House Ways & Means Committee
March 4, 2022

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) strongly supports HB 995, which would make vast improvements to the Child Care Scholarship Program (CCSP). These alterations would render CCSP far more effective in serving the parents and child care providers who participate and in achieving its mission. MFN urges your favorable consideration.

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.

CCSP is currently the State’s largest single investment in early childhood education. It serves a dual purpose of bolstering Maryland’s workforce and economy by removing a major barrier to employment for low- to moderate-income parents, who would otherwise struggle to find and afford care arrangements for their children. CCSP is therefore critical to our efforts to keep parents earning and children learning.

By raising subsidy rates and expanding eligibility, Maryland’s program has in recent years been transformed from one the poorest ones to one of the very best in the country. For this, MFN commends the General Assembly and the Administration. Unfortunately, CCSP still too often fails to fulfill its promise. Parents can face lengthy delays in the scholarship application process, and consequently fail to take advantage of job opportunities. Providers struggle with late payments from the State that hamper their ability to sustain affordable, high quality programs. The application itself is overdue for careful review and streamlining.

MFN believes all these shortcomings may help explain why, according to Department of Budget and Management estimates, only 22 percent of income-eligible families and only 29 percent of child care providers participate in CCSP.

HB 995 would establish a system of presumptive and proxy eligibility for parents while their applications are determined, require prompt payments to providers, and initiate a thorough review of application procedures. These would constitute the next major strides in the ongoing improvement of CCSP. MFN strongly urges the Committee’s favorable consideration.



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.

HB995_MoCo_Frey_SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Leslie Frey

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 995

DATE: March 4, 2022

SPONSOR: Delegate Solomon

ASSIGNED TO: Ways & Means

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations

House Bill 995 creates a presumptive eligibility process to enable families seeking to access the State's Child Care Scholarship Program (the Program) to receive a child care subsidy before and during the eligibility determination process for the Program. Under the bill, an individual would submit a form to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) certifying that the individual meets the eligibility requirements for the Program. Upon submitting the form, the individual would receive a subsidy under the Program beginning on the day the form was submitted. If the individual does not fill out an application for the Program within 15 days of submitting the form, the subsidy would end after 15 days. If the individual fills out an application for the Program within 15 days of submitting the form and MSDE determines the individual does not qualify for a subsidy after reviewing the application, the subsidy would end on the date on which MSDE makes that determination. The subsidy would be payable to child care providers and would be for an amount sufficient to ensure that the individual would not be required to pay a co-pay for child care if the individual provides proof of participation in certain benefits programs or is employed or enrolled in an education or career training program. MSDE would be prohibited from requiring an individual to pursue or receive child support payments or apply for services from a child support agency in order to receive the subsidy.

House Bill 995, if enacted, would have a twofold policy benefit: it would encourage families to access the Child Care Scholarship Program and complete the application process and it would enable child care providers to access funding as soon as a child enrolls in care. At a critical time when child care providers are struggling to recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19, House Bill 995 could provide an additional path to relief by enhancing an existing program.

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 House Bill 995. Montgomery County respectfully urges the committees to issue a favorable report.

HB 995_MDCC_Early Childhood Development-Child Care

Uploaded by: Maddy Voytek

Position: FAV



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Favorable

House Bill 995

Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations

House Ways and Means Committee

Friday, March 4, 2022

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 5,500 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

HB 995 would direct the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to establish a process that would grant presumptive eligibility for parents applying for the Child Care Scholarship Program. By granting presumptive eligibility for the Child Care Scholarship Program, **HB 995** would ensure that childcare providers are eligible to receive subsidy payments for their services during the time in which MSDE is making a final determination. Further, **HB 995** requires MSDE to pay childcare providers within 10 days of the date in which they received an invoice from a childcare provider.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce and its members are tremendously supportive of measures such as **HB 995** aiming to address the State's current childcare shortage. The childcare crisis, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, is having an exceedingly negative impact on workers' ability to return to the labor market. The shortage in childcare is without a doubt a factor preventing Maryland employers from returning to full operations, further contributing to the State's anemic recovery.

HB 995 will ensure that childcare providers are paid in a prompt and timely fashion which will provide additional certainty in meeting the many financial obligations Maryland small businesses have. By providing greater certainty and process for state payments, **HB 995** will allow childcare providers to stay open for business and operate in a more sustainable business model.

HB 995 is just a small step to fixing the many challenges facing Maryland's childcare infrastructure. However, this small step is imperative to keeping these small businesses open and getting Marylanders back to work. For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **Favorable Report** on **House Bill 995**.

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 995.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 995 - Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations 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 995, Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations. We herald Delegate 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 for Maryland.

HB 995 requires that, among other things, the State Department of Education establishes a process for granting presumptive eligibility for a subsidy under the Child Care Scholarship Program and reduces the barriers faced by parents applying for child care scholarships. The legislation also requires MSDE to pay child care providers within 10 days of receipt of their invoice and implement related practices to improve the accessibility and transparency of the scholarship program. These are important provisions as the goal is to stabilize the sector with urgent and efficient measures that aim to support, rather than penalize, parents and providers.

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 995 and the opportunity it presents for creating a more equitable process for all parents seeking to participate in the child care scholarship program. In addition, the Bill's prioritization of timely payment of child care providers will address a long-standing issue that has burdened child care providers who operate on thin margins while providing quality, continuous care for the children and families in their care. HB 995 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 995 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**; Michelle Martineau Green, Executive Director, **Montgomery Child Care Association, Inc.**; 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**

HB995.CCSP.Council.Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: FAV



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Ways and Means Committee

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

March 4, 2022

Position: **Support**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities live the lives they want with the support they need. The Child Care Scholarship Program (CCSP) provides financial assistance with child care costs to eligible families in Maryland. The eligible family will receive a voucher to use to purchase child care directly from the provider of their choice. The CCSP has undergone dramatic improvements over the last couple of years. Additional funding coupled with policy changes, including changes to income eligibility requirements and raised rates, allowed more families to qualify for subsidies and be able to afford more child care. **This bill would streamline access to the CCSP by establishing presumptive eligibility, expanding express lane or dual eligibility, expediting provider payments, simplifying the application, and terminating the child support requirement.**

The potential impact to families of children with disabilities must be noted.

- Eligible families of children with disabilities are given first priority.
- There is a “special disability rate” that can be used to support children with disabilities.

Programs must provide children with disabilities and their families an equal opportunity to participate in the child care program and services by providing reasonable modifications, accommodations, and provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services needed for effective communication.ⁱ Some of these additional accommodations may be costly. In recognition of that, **Maryland law allows for increased CCSP reimbursement rates to a child care provider for the additional costs of providing one-time or ongoing accommodations to a child with a disability – up to 15% above the traditional reimbursement rates or more if approved by MSDE.**ⁱⁱ

The majority of child care providers want to support children with disabilities but need assistance to do so. It is our understanding that this “special disability rate” has not been utilized since SFY1998.ⁱⁱⁱ **Making sure this rate is known about and used, coupled with other efforts to streamline access to the CCSP, would help the families of children with disabilities who are still struggling to find and keep high quality child care where their children with disabilities can learn and play alongside their peers without disabilities.**

When the process is streamlined, more families, including families of children with disabilities will be able to access the child care they need. In order to provide all children, including children with disabilities, and their families with equal access to quality, inclusive child care, it is important that the process works for providers and families.

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, RLondon@md-council.org

ⁱ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 (2009).

ⁱⁱ COMAR 13A.14.06.11(E)(5).

ⁱⁱⁱ *Maryland Family Network Public Policy Handbook 2017-2018*, Appendix B.

HB 995.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Hancock

Position: FAV



**Testimony Concerning HB 995 – Early Childhood Development -
Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations**

Submitted to House Ways and Means

March 4, 2022

Position: Support

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit organization advocating on behalf of 4,440 registered family child care providers plus an additional 145 registered large family child care homes. The Maryland Scholarship Program was created to help Maryland's families access quality child care programs. Unfortunately, the current system frequently creates confusion and frustration for both parents and providers. Many providers are willing to accept scholarship children in their programs; however, the ongoing problems in the program, like non-payment and delayed payments, causes child care providers to favor private pay families. There is also considerable frustration for parents and providers with the application process; it is cumbersome, confusing and lacks adequate customer service.

Parents share with providers the scholarship application and payment difficulties they experience. One such issue is frequent loss of all or part of their pending application, which results in their application being denied; therefore, the family receives no child care services. Also, when they call the customer service line for help, they are either put on hold for an excessive amount of time, or the representative does not understand them or cannot help them. Some have shared that their calls are never even returned. Parents have even lost employment opportunities due to the length of time it takes to move through the process. Language barriers

are often experienced by parents and providers. Difficulty in being understood by customer service representatives as well as these other issues delay or even halt application process completion.

MSFCCA believes that HB 995 would alleviate some of these obstacles for providers and parents in the Scholarship process. This legislation would offer presumptive eligibility, streamline the process and enable a parent who already participates in certain government programs to immediately receive benefits while waiting for eligibility verification. It was very encouraging to see that the child support stipulation has been removed as well, this will help many parents, especially those involved in Domestic Violence cases. HB 995 also addresses the time that it takes for providers to receive payments for services rendered, currently some providers wait months before receiving payment. This legislation would guarantee payment to providers within 10 days of the Department receiving the invoice from the provider. HB 995 addresses many present concerns and obstacles allowing for more families to benefit from the scholarship program and providers to be guaranteed payment for their services.

The provider community is very appreciative of all that HB 995 offers; however, language barriers in the application process is a very real issue and was not addressed in the legislation. MSFCCA supports HB 995 and respectfully asks for a favorable vote. We believe that it will enable more Maryland Families to access quality child care. Feel free to contact Rebecca Hancock, the MSFCCA Vice President of Public Policy at 301-934-4445 or at kaysplayhousechildcare@gmail.com with any questions.

Oral Testimony HB 995.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Hancock

Position: FAV



Maryland State Family Child Care Association

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

Submitted to House Ways and Means

March 4, 2022

Position: SUPPORT

Good Afternoon, my name is Rebecca Hancock and I am the Vice-President of Public Policy for the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA). We represent approximately 4,440 family providers and 145 providers of large family child care homes in the state of Maryland. I would like to thank Delegate Atterbeary and this Committee for the opportunity to speak in support of HB 995.

Ideally the Scholarship Program is in place to help working families have access to and help pay for quality child care for their children; currently it is less than successful. The application process is arduous and confusing at best. Parents have had services denied for a single piece of missing information. The bi-lingual community, both providers and parents struggle due to the huge language barrier making it difficult to have their questions answered. Providers are also put in the position of not knowing when or if they will receive payment for their services.

We believe that HB 995 will enable more parents to take advantage of the Scholarship Program by offering presumptive eligibility; meaning a parent who is already receiving government assistance can automatically enroll in the program while the "Department" verifies their eligibility to remain in the program. In addition, removing the child support requirement will enable more parents to participate in the program, especially parents involved in Domestic Violence Situations. I personally had a parent who



Maryland State Family Child Care Association

had difficulty with the child support requirement. When the Restraining Order expired, the Scholarship Program would not renew the mother's voucher unless she supplied the father's name. The mother tried to explain "just because the Order had expired didn't mean the abusive parent was any less dangerous". The parent and I both contacted the scholarship program on numerous occasions but couldn't get the voucher renewed. Consequently, the parent pulled her child from my program and said they would have to see who she could "find" to care for her daughter. Providers have shared with us their horror stories of waiting months, to be paid or not getting paid at all. HB 995 alleviates this by requiring the "Department" to pay providers within 10 days of receiving the invoice. Requiring the Department to streamline the application process would also benefit working families in Maryland; many times the process takes too long and parents have lost employment opportunities due to the delay in approval.

We are very appreciative of the positive changes outlined in HB 995; unfortunately, language barriers in the application process are a very real issue and were not addressed in this legislation. MSFCCA supports HB 995 and respectfully asks for a favorable vote. We believe it will benefit many working families in Maryland, as well as child care providers.

Testimony presented by :

Rebecca Hancock, (301) 934 - 4445, kaysplayhousechildcare@gmail.com

Testimony In Support of HB 935 - SB 637 - Health a

Uploaded by: Rich Ceruolo

Position: FAV



March 1, 2022

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

In Support of HB 995 / SB 920: Early Child Care Development – Child Care Scholarship Program

Members of the Maryland House of Delegate’s Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1400 plus members fully support HB 995.

We support any bill that improves funding and supports for families, child care center employees and staff member training as we embark on wrap around service provided as part of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

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.

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 by improving access to quality child care. We ask that the committees please return a favorable report, and support HB 995. 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 995- Early Childhood Developmen

Uploaded by: Sarah Miicke

Position: FAV

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Shomrei Eemunah Congregation
Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society
Suburban Orthodox Congregation
Temple Beth Shalom
Temple Isaiah
Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

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

Ways and Means Committee – March 4, 2022 SUPPORT

Background: House Bill 995, (HB995) would create presumptive eligibility for the subsidy under the the Child Care Scholarship Program. An individual would be required to certify that they meet the eligibility requirements of the subsidy and submit an electronic form to the department. The individual would automatically receive the subsidy after they submit the form. They would have 15 days to fill out the full application, and would continue to receive the subsidy until the department makes an eligibility determination. Further, HB995 would require that no copay be paid by subsidy recipients who participate in certain voucher and assistance programs.

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 makes it almost impossible for those trying to get back into the workforce because it requires proof of employment or job training before someone is eligible. This means that someone would need to find child care and afford that child care before starting employment. The reforms in HB995 would help more people be eligible for the subsidy and remove the current barriers.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report on HB995.

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>

HB 995_MDAEYC_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie Schaefer

Position: FAV



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Testimony in Support of HB 995
“Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations”
Submitted to the House Ways and Means Committee
March 4, 2022

Support

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) supports HB 995, which would improve the Child Care Scholarship Program by making it simpler and faster for parents to apply for and receive scholarship payments.

MDAEYC is a professional association of 1,900 early childhood educators, allied professionals, and families. We believe that all children deserve high-quality early childhood education, no matter the income level of their parents. The Child Care Scholarship Program enables families with low or moderate incomes to receive a child care subsidy to cover a large part of their child care costs, promoting equitable access to early childhood education.

In recent years, Maryland raised the subsidy rates and expanded eligibility, serving more families with a more substantial child care subsidy amount. These improvements have enabled the State to help more families afford the high cost of child care. Despite these important improvements, families and child care providers still face challenges in accessing the scholarship program in a timely manner.

HB 995 would help expedite families’ access to child care scholarships by creating a system of presumptive eligibility and proxy eligibility for the scholarships. Determining that families are eligible sooner will enable parents to secure child care and enter or remain in the workforce. HB 995 also helps child care providers receive scholarship payments in a timely manner. As small businesses, child care centers and family child care homes face financial struggles when they are forced to wait many weeks to receive scholarship payments from the State.

HB 995 would help families access quality child care for their children through prompt scholarship eligibility determination, and would help child care programs operate effectively with more timely payments for the valuable early childhood education services they provide. We urge your support of this legislation.

If you have any questions, please contact: Stephanie Schaefer, Program Coordinator, at stephanie.schaefer@mdaeyc.org or 240-441-3280.

HB 995 - SWA - Early Childhood Development – Child

Uploaded by: Ary Amerikaner

Position: FWA



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:	House Bill 995	DATE:	March 4, 2022
SUBJECT:	Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations	COMMITTEE:	Ways and Means and Appropriations
POSITION:	Support with Amendments		
CONTACT:	Ary Amerikaner 410-767-0090 ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov		

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) supports **House Bill 995 – Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations**, which would make significant changes to the Child Care Scholarship Program, including establishing a process for granting presumptive eligibility under the Child Care Scholarship Program. MSDE appreciates the collaborative efforts made by the authors of the legislation and the opportunity to provide input throughout the process.

Expediting access to child care for vulnerable families is a laudable goal and one that the MSDE fully supports. It is critical, however, that we pursue this in a manner that does not jeopardize critical federal funds nor lead to the MSDE acting as a collections agency, seeking to recoup funds paid to providers serving families ultimately deemed ineligible. Therefore, MSDE requests that the committee consider the following amendments:

1. Establish a State fund to pay for childcare services provided to families found to be ineligible. After consultation with the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Care, it is clear that neither (a) federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) funds nor (b) state funds used as “matching” funds within the CCDF program are allowed to be used to pay for child care for a child whose parents or guardians are found to be ineligible. To ensure that Maryland does not run afoul of these rules, the State will need to be prepared to pay for the childcare services provided to any families that are ultimately found to be ineligible;
2. Adjust the timeline by replacing August, 2022 with July 1, 2023. This allows a new state funding stream to be appropriated in FY24 before the program begins and provides adequate time to build and implement presumptive eligibility programming in a thoughtful, strategic way; and
3. Add language making clear that MSDE is not to recover funds paid to providers to serve families ultimately deemed ineligible, and instead is to reassign these costs from CCDF funds to the state funds dedicated for this purpose.

Additionally, because MSDE does not directly pay providers, MSDE requests a technical amendment recognizing the multiple agencies involved in issuing payments to providers under the scholarship program:

4. On page 3, please replace current (G) with the following text, consulting with the Comptroller's office to identify the appropriate number of days in (H):

“(G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROCESS A CHILD CARE PROVIDER’S CORRECTLY SUBMITTED INVOICE AND TRANSMIT THE PAYMENT TO THE COMPTROLLER WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES AN INVOICE FROM A CHILD CARE PROVIDER.

(H) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL PAY THE PROVIDER WITHIN [#] DAYS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THE DEPARTMENT TRANSMITS SUCH PAYMENT UNDER (G).”

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate House Bill 995. Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov, for any additional information.