



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

www.womensdemocraticclub.org

**House Bill 0933 - Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)
Ways and Means Committee – March 4, 2022
SUPPORT**

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Leslie Milano
President