



Flora Gee, Director
7600 Hanover Parkway, Suite 100
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
(301) 345-8830

www.greenbeltchildrenscenter.com
Email: flora@greenbeltchildrenscenter.com

February 28, 2022

To the Members of the House Ways and Means Committee-

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Flora Gee, M.Ed.