



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

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

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

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