

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,

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