



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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