



Senate Bill 881 -- *Child Care Providers and Employees - Bonuses - Alterations*
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 15, 2023
Support

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports Senate Bill 881 -- *Child Care Providers and Employees - Bonuses - Alterations*.

Senate Bill 881 increases the amount of eligible childcare new hiring bonuses for childcare providers by \$500 to \$1,500. The bill also extends this existing program for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 and requires an annual appropriation of \$6,000,000 to the State Department of Education.

MCCC has identified the issue of child care access and affordability as an economic imperative that needs to be addressed to help Maryland employers and employees succeed. There are significant economic costs to unreliable and unaffordable child care in Maryland.

MCCC contends that increasing affordable and quality child care was critical prior to the pandemic and is now even more important. As Maryland continues to get more people back to the office, child care challenges remain a concern that hinders growth in the State's economy. Now more than ever, the availability of quality and affordable child care is an important determinate to the success of the workforce.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber supports Senate Bill 881 and requests a favorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

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