



**Testimony Concerning Senate Bill 881
Submitted to the Senate
Budget and Tax Committee**

March 15, 2023

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a Professional Family Child Care Association that has represented Maryland's Registered Family Child Care and Large Family Child Care homes since 1983. The mission of MSFCCA is to promote and enhance the profession by advocating for all of the 989 small child care businesses through the 19 local Associations that make up our statewide membership. In addition, our advocacy efforts extend to all other child care programs in Maryland that may not be members of MSFCCA.

The decline in registered family child care programs compounds the already existing program for families that are looking for quality child care, especially those with infants and toddlers. These closed programs can be attributed to many things, such as long hours and low wages that are not compensatory.

People entering the workforce do not see child care (family child care specifically) as profitable or as a long term career. Before the COVID-19 Pandemic there was already a crisis in this important career field, attracting and retaining qualified people. The hours are long and wages are low. We were thankful for the passage of HB 1100 last legislative session that created monies for bonuses to hire and retain qualified workers in the child care field. However, the monies have been slow to be disbursed to providers and the process was very confusing so that many providers that were eligible for the bonuses did not apply for them. We are hopeful that

SB 881 will put the bonuses in place on a permanent basis to maintain long-term workforce development, and that the process will be less confusing so that all providers who are eligible for the bonuses will be able to receive them in a timely manner.

Children are Maryland's future and MSFCCA believes that SB 881 would go a long way towards creating a stronger workforce in the child care field in Maryland, so we respectfully ask for your support and favorable vote on SB 881. For comments or questions please contact Rebecca Hancock, MSFCCA Vice President of Public Policy at (301) 934-4445 or at kaysplayhousechildcare@gmail.com