



SEIU Local 500

901 Russell Avenue, Suite 300
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Testimony in FAVOR of SB 873 Child Care Stabilization Program

Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
February 22, 2023
2:00 PM

Presented by: Terry Cavanagh representing SEIU Local 500

We urge a FAVORABLE Report on SB 873

Among the two million SEIU members across the country are 200,00 child care providers. In Maryland, Local 500 represents thousands of family child care providers.

The last three years have been like no other for most, if not all, of us. The impact of COVID-19 was felt acutely by parents, children and providers in our child care system. The top reason why so many Marylanders did not return to work when their businesses or employers reopened was, they could not find affordable, reliable, quality child care.

SB 873 addresses a crisis facing our state. In the last few years there's been a precipitous drop in the number of child care providers who accept children enrolled in the Child Care Scholarship Program. In 2010, based on the information provided to us by the state, there were approximately 8,000 licensed family child care providers. Today, there are only 3,900 and of those, only about 1,200 accept children in the CCS Program. Unless you act, that number is likely to continue to decline.

In recent years the Maryland General Assembly has taken significant steps to improve our child care system. Passing SB 873 would continue us on that path. The bill takes a simple and straightforward approach to drawing more providers into the CCS market – it provides a modest financial incentive for accepting children in the CCS Program. We believe this is a smart, relatively small investment that will pay significant dividends for Maryland’s parents, children, businesses, and providers.

Thank you.

We ask a **FAVORABLE REPORT ON SB 873**.