



February 21, 2023

Subject: **Support for SB873, Child Care Provider Stabilization Program - Established**

Dear Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

On behalf of Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF) and the entire Nonprofit Montgomery organization, we write in support of **Support for SB873, Child Care Provider Stabilization Program - Established**.

We are grateful for Senator Washington's leadership and advocacy for the child care sector and the support by the entire Maryland General Assembly for your work on behalf of child care providers during the COVID pandemic to the present time. Your continued support and recognition of the essential role of the child care sector to our state's economic success is invaluable as we work together to create a more equitable and resilient early care and education system in Maryland.

The essential stabilization support provided under SB873 remains urgently needed by child care providers to support the day-to-day operations of child care programs; their staff, many of whom are women of color; and the families they serve with high quality care. Without Child Care Provider Stabilization Programs like SB873, most child care businesses would not survive. In addition to the core elements included in SB873, it is also critical that MSDE make payments in a timely fashion to stabilize the sector with urgent and efficient measures. This program will continue to provide a lifeline for struggling child care businesses and can also serve as a model for other states.

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Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF) is a collective impact initiative of [Nonprofit Montgomery](#). We work with partners across sectors to effect systems-wide change on issues affecting all county residents. MMF convenes the [Early Care and Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition](#). The Coalition is a regional public-private coalition of 50+ early care and education leaders and advocates from the business, education, public, philanthropic, and nonprofit sectors that work collaboratively with state elected partners to reduce barriers to quality child care and education and create equitable processes, practices, and pathways for children, their caregivers, and the child care workforce across the state of Maryland.

We are eager to continue to work in partnership with your committee to ensure the full recovery, resilience, and sustainability of the early care and education sector across our state. Early care and education is an economic and social justice imperative and a pillar of Maryland's economy. **We urge you to give SB873 a favorable report.**

Sincerely,

Lavontte Chatmon
Executive Director, Nonprofit Montgomery