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BILL NO.: **HB 868**

TITLE: **Child Care Provider Stabilization Program – Established**

SPONSOR: **Delegate McCaskill**

COMMITTEE: **Ways and Means**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **March 1, 2023**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 868 – Child Care Provider Stabilization Program - Established. This legislation would establish the Child Care Provider Stabilization Program.

Licensed childcare providers are critical resources for working families across the State of Maryland. Many parents rely on child care professionals to care for their children during the day that allows children to learn and socialize in a safe environment while they work. The COVID-19 pandemic severely destabilized the childcare arena, leaving many providers in financial distress and many parents without access to affordable child care options. In the wake of the pandemic, Baltimore County allocated \$7 million in subsidies to cover the cost of childcare services for many families, and opened academic support centers to create new options for full-day, in-person childcare. Many licensed providers still in operation, however, face a long recovery ahead.

House Bill 868 would provide much-needed assistance to childcare providers. Under this bill, providers can receive stability funding based on the number of children enrolled in the past 1-6 months. By allocating enhanced subsidies for providers that enroll recipients of Child Care Scholarship funds, this legislation incentivizes providers to offer care to low-income families who depend on state assistance to secure these vital services.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 868. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.