February 13, 2023

Subject: **Support for HB495; Early Childhood Development - Child Care Scholarship Program - Funding**

Dear Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF) and the entire Nonprofit Montgomery organization, we write in support of HB 495; Early Childhood Development - Child Care Scholarship Program - Funding.

The 'maintenance of effort' intent of HB 495 and its specification of funding for the Child Care Scholarship program is a critical component to ensuring a stable, equitable approach to the reimbursement process, and one that propels us forward towards a more resilient child care sector for our state.

We are grateful for the leadership and diligent work of this committee on the issue of early care and education (ECE). Your recognition of ECE as the cornerstone of our economy and essential to nurturing a capable workforce of tomorrow while investing in the workforce of today is commendable.

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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. We fully support HB495 and the stability it will provide to child care providers and families around the state.

Sincerely,

Lavontte Chatmon
Executive Director, Nonprofit Montgomery