



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**Senate Bill 350  
Early Child Development-Child Care Scholarship Program- Funding  
Senate Committee – Budget and Taxation - February 15, 2023  
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2023 legislative session. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

**WDC urges passage of SB0350.** This bill will codify gains in the State's Child Care Scholarship Program (CCSP) and guarantee access to all families eligible for child care scholarships. WDC concurs with the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW), which is also advocating for SB0350. According to the 2023 MLAW conference presentation for SB0350, "The State's Child Care Scholarship Program helps parents enter and remain in the workforce by subsidizing the high cost of childcare. It gives parents access to licensed early education programs. In short, it keeps parents earning and children learning."

Senate Bill 350 will mandate an appropriation in the annual state budget bill and sustain the state's investments in the CCSP. For fiscal years 2023 and 2024, the total appropriation would be no less than in fiscal years 2018 or 2019, whichever is greater. For fiscal year 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, the appropriation would be an amount sufficient to provide a subsidy to all eligible individuals.

Sustaining the State's investments in childcare access for families in need is at serious risk without this bill. In 2022, thanks to an influx of federal pandemic aid combined with the state's economic rebound, CCSP received significant investments through the Governor and General Assembly. But, after the one-time federal pandemic funding is fully expended, the State will need to appropriate additional funds to CCSP. If the State does not make additional investments in FY24 going forward, families could face increased, burdensome costs or long waiting lists for childcare.

**We ask for your support for SB0350 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.** To maintain our competitive edge as a state, we need to keep women in the workforce. Affordable, available, quality, childcare is a significant factor in a woman's ability to remain in the workforce and provide for her family, especially for low and moderate- income families.

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