



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

**Testimony in Support of HB 1314**  
**“Corporations and Associations – Annual Reports –**  
**Filing Fees (Right to Start Act)”**  
**Submitted to the House Economic Matters Committee**  
**March 1, 2024**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAAYC) supports HB 1314, The Right to Start Act, which supports new businesses and makes needed investments in child care.

MDAAYC is a professional association of 2,000 early childhood educators, allied professionals, and families. We promote high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood education practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

HB 1314 would waive the \$300 filing fee for new businesses for their first year. Eliminating one of the costs of starting a business in Maryland helps bolster new businesses that can contribute to Maryland’s economy. The \$300 filing fee remains for subsequent years for all businesses. HB 1314 also would dedicate half of the revenue generated by these filing fees to invest in three worthy Maryland child care initiatives:

- The Child Care Scholarship helps more families afford the high costs of child care and enter or remain in the workforce.
- The Grow Opportunities for Family Child Care (GoFCC) Grant provides support to help small business owners open family child care programs; these programs can help meet the high demand for child care that workers with young children need to remain on the job.
- The PreK Expansion Grants help Maryland increase its capacity of PreK programs by offering public PreK in schools and in community based child care centers.

Investing in these child care initiatives supports Maryland’s workforce: workers with young children can show up at work and do their jobs effectively when they have safe, reliable, high-quality child care for their children. According to a report by the Maryland Family Network, 15 percent of working Maryland parents with children age 5 and under reported a long-term disruption to their employment due to issues with child care.<sup>1</sup> Investing in child care supply and capacity helps working parents, which ultimately helps businesses.

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<sup>1</sup> Talbert, E. M., Bustamante, A., Thompson, L. J., and Williams, M. E. (2018). [Counting our losses: The hidden cost to Marylanders of an inadequate child care system](#). Maryland Family Network.

In Maryland's lean budget environment, the Right to Start Act is a valuable initial step in increasing investments in child care. For these reasons, MDAEYC respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 1314.

*If you have any questions, please contact: Stephanie Schaefer, PhD. Program Coordinator, at [stephanie.schaefer@mdaeyc.org](mailto:stephanie.schaefer@mdaeyc.org) or 240-441-3280.*