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The Right to Start Act (HB1314) Favorable w/Amendments

The Southern Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce, SAACC, is in favor of The Right to Start Act (HB1314) with the amendments of 25% credited to the Childcare Scholarship Program, 12.5% distributed to the Department of Education to provide grants under the Growing Family Childcare Opportunities Pilot Program and 12.5% credited to the Prekindergarten Expansion Fund.

Eliminating the \$300 new business filing fee in the first year of business helps to eliminate an additional financial burden of new businesses. Many facilities have changed their business or closed during the pandemic. This has exacerbated the situation and caused an increase in tuition. Childcare issues are a huge worry to employees which is causing an even larger challenge for employers to face.

Lack of childcare has caused families to make decisions regarding two working parents in the household. The number one reason women leave the workforce, or change jobs is due to childcare. 46% of mothers have left the workforce or remain unemployed due to childcare issues.

The amendments to the bill help to create future opportunities for entrepreneurs, help families to afford tuition and help the growth of Prekindergarten across the state. Prekindergarten expansion helps children learn at an earlier age, develop social needs, and helps to fill the gap that traditional childcare has lacked.

All these programs combined in addition to the waived business filing fee, help to take a step in the right direction for childcare. Which is a solution that is needed by all.

Thank you,

Julia Howes
Julia Howes
President/CEO