



**Maryland State
Family Child Care
Association**
www.msfccca.org

Testimony - HB 1314

Right to Start Act_
March 05, 2024

Position: Favorable

Honorable Chair Wilson and Respected Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

As the President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA), representing over 4,000 family childcare providers in our state, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 1314, also known as the Right to Start Act.

This bill, which proposes to waive the filing fee for certain business entities for the first year of their existence, holds significant implications for the childcare sector in Maryland. By alleviating the financial burden of the initial filing fee, the Right to Start Act aims to encourage the establishment of new businesses, including family childcare programs. As we continue to address the pressing need for more childcare slots, especially for infants and toddlers, this legislation comes as a timely and much-needed intervention.

Family childcare providers play a crucial role in meeting the childcare needs of Maryland families. However, many aspiring providers face barriers to entry, including financial constraints associated with starting a new business. By waiving the filing fee for the first year of operation, House Bill 1314 will lower the barrier to entry for potential providers, enabling them to establish new childcare programs and expand the availability of childcare slots across the state.

Moreover, we commend the provisions of the bill that allocate a percentage of the filing fee to support key initiatives in the childcare sector. Specifically, the allocation of funds to the Child Care Scholarship Program Presumptive Eligibility Fund and the Prekindergarten Expansion Fund will enhance access to high-quality early childhood education and support the growth of family childcare programs.

As advocates for the well-being of Maryland's children and families, MSFCCA wholeheartedly endorses House Bill 1314. We believe that this legislation will not only stimulate entrepreneurship and economic growth but also contribute to the development of a robust and inclusive childcare system that meets the diverse needs of our communities.

In conclusion, I urge you to support House Bill 1314 and prioritize its passage for the benefit of Maryland's families, children, and future generations. Thank you

Sincerely,

Ruby Daniels
President, Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA)

Rebecca Hancock
VP, MSFCCA Public Policy



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