



**Testimony Concerning SB 500**  
**“Education - Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund - Alterations”**  
**Submitted to the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**February 14, 2024**

**Position: Support**

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports SB 500, which alters provisions around the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF), a tuition assistance program that helps child care providers further their education.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and early childhood education as well as other supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on child care policy and are strongly committed to ensuring that children, along with their parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.

Child care providers pursuing college degrees can access CCCPDF for assistance in paying for tuition, fees, and books at participating colleges and universities. Upon completion of degree requirements, the provider must remain employed in a child care setting for at least two years in the case of an associate’s degree or four years in the case of a bachelor’s degree.

The surest indicators of quality in an early care and education settings are the training and skills of the provider. Ensuring that child care providers have access to professional development and higher education remains a core component of the early childhood provisions of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

MFN respectfully urges favorable consideration of SB 500.

