



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

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**Testimony in Support of 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**

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) supports SB 500, which would make changes to the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF) to support the child care workforce and remove barriers to higher education for child care providers.

MDAEYC 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.

We support SB 500’s provision which prioritizes scholarship funding for students attending colleges or universities that offer native language or bilingual course work in early childhood education or a related field. As the professional requirements for child care providers increase, we support efforts to ensure that all providers have equitable opportunities to pursue higher education and advance professionally. Access to education in one’s native language helps college students be successful in their degree programs.

Further, child care providers with additional education and training in early childhood education can increase their knowledge and skills in caring for children, which benefits the children and families they serve as well.

For these reasons, MDAEYC respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 500.

*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.*