

February 14, 2024

Support for SB 500

“Education - Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund - Alterations”
Submitted to the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

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CRC enthusiastically supports SB 500. This is a win for all – child care providers are able to further their education, which contributes to a competent and professional workforce; children attend high quality programs; and our entire economies are supported. Child care is critical for working parents and their employers.

Child Resource Connect (CRC), formerly Prince George’s Child Resource Center, has been providing services to Prince George’s County since 1990. CRC helps create healthy and nurturing environments for children by supporting their families and educating their caregivers. Through a comprehensive array of programming—direct services for children and families, education and coaching for child care providers, and grassroots advocacy in partnership with stakeholders at all levels—we work towards communities in which all families have access to high-quality child care and the resources and support they need to build stable, secure environments in which children can thrive.

When child care providers can access CCCPDF for assistance in paying for tuition, fees, and books at participating colleges and universities, they are more likely to pursue a higher degree. The requirement that those who access tuition support must remain employed in a child care setting for at least two years (four years for a bachelor’s degree) will help address the dire workforce shortages that currently exist in the field.

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; training and skills of an educator are foundational to their ability to positively impact young children in their care.

CRC urges support for SB 500.

