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**Testimony in Support of HB 1139 and SB 882
Submitted to the House Ways and Means Committee**

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Child Resource Connect (CRC) helps create healthy and nurturing environments for children by supporting their families and educating their caregivers in Anne Arundel County and Prince George's County. 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.

This includes facilitating the GOFCC grant pilot. **GOFCC program is helping skilled, caring individuals accomplish starting up a child care business in their home to meet the needs of families in their neighborhoods:**

- **Start-up Costs** -Participants can overcome financial barriers they may have without the GOFCC program's assistance allows participants to make financial investments in their businesses. Those startup costs can be significant, including training, purchasing materials, and adjustments or repairs to their home or outdoor play space.
- **Registration, Scholarship, and Maryland EXCELS** - The CRC supports each step they will have to take in obtaining the Office of Child Care registration. The GOFCC coordinators offer support in helping write contracts and policies they will need to run their business and help set up the layout of the space for child care. Further, GOFCC helps with participation in Maryland Excels, and encouraging the acceptance of child care scholarship in their programs.
- **Small Business Success** - The GOFCC program helps these individuals see themselves as business owners by offering a business series training to them that can help them understand the basics of registering their business and setting up business bank accounts as well as general tax information, and maintaining and sustaining their business into the future.

Impact So Far

- GOFCC has helped launch 14 new family child care programs across Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties since 2023.
- These 14 programs offer a combined total of 80 new child care slots
- 6 of these 14 accept Maryland Child Care Scholarship
- **30 more programs are process of receiving their registration!**
- Here's what they're saying:

- “In every way, from the unexpected stipend, paid classes, and trainings. I could not have navigated this process without GOFCC.”
- “They made me feel like help was always around the corner.”
- “GOFCC helped me to sort out what I needed to get and exactly what the forms, permits, should look like so that I could guarantee I was doing it correctly.”-

More Impact Ahead

There are 30 more individuals working with Child Resource Connect currently, including **6 more in an entirely Spanish-speaking cohort.**

Businesses large and small are counting on employees. Employees are counting on child care providers! I know that families are counting on me and GOFCC is making a real difference. Marylanders need this to continue! We need more child care options, and we need more providers willing and able to enroll Child Care Scholarship families. This up-front investment saves time and money for these individual caregivers *and* for state agency staff, by supporting and smoothing the road to compliance, opening their doors, and sustaining their child care business.

We urge the General Assembly to make this pilot a permanent part of the child care system in our state. The bill has passed the Senate, and your colleagues have made room for this investment in the budget too. It is time to say: “let’s go for GOFCC!” Thank you for your support.