



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Testimony in Support of HB 1139 and SB 882
“Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Permanent Establishment”
Submitted to the House Ways and Means Committee
March 27, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) supports HB 1139 / SB 882, which would establish the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program (GOFCC) as a permanent program, and require the Governor to make an appropriation in the annual budget bill.

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.

The GOFCC Program was established initially as a Pilot Program, an appropriate approach for new initiatives. GOFCC provides support to help new family child care providers open up their programs and provides ongoing support to help them develop their child care business and continue to operate effectively. The support includes professional development, for new providers, which is an important part of helping these family child care educators provide quality child care that supports young children’s healthy development and learning. Helping prospective family child care providers open up their businesses is an important and cost-effective way to create more child care supply, something that Maryland needs. This is especially true for infant care, which is in short supply in our state.

The GOFCC pilot, created in 2021 has demonstrated effectiveness over the past two years. In fact, GOFCC has helped create nearly 100 family child care homes, creating nearly 800 new child care openings in Maryland to support Maryland’s working families.

Now that the GOFCC pilot program has shown proof of concept by supporting and creating more family child care programs, MDAEYC wholeheartedly supports this worthy initiative to support family child care providers and help meet the child care needs of Maryland’s working families with young children.

For these reasons, MDAEYC respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 882.

If you have any questions, please contact: Stephanie Schaefer, PhD. Program Coordinator, at stephanie.schaefer@mdaeyc.org or 240-441-3280.