



March 20, 2024

SUPPORT – SB600 - Education - Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund - Alterations

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Anne Arundel Early Childhood Childcare Taskforce, I am writing in support of SB600 to alter the qualifications for an award from the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund. The Early Childhood Childcare Taskforce is a group of stakeholders who work within the early childhood education field including government agencies, childcare providers, and nonprofits. Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman signed the executive order in February 2024 to create the taskforce, showing Anne Arundel's commitment to solving issues related to the childcare industry. This bill would expand those eligible to receive awards to join the child care industry.

SB600 demonstrates a commitment to aiding, supporting, and valuing those who choose this profession but need financial assistance. Supporting this bill can make a difference in helping to prepare individuals, who are most often women who have chosen a pathway where they are not only helping to develop our children, but can uplift them to be self-sufficient and could lead to various jobs in this field.

Childcare is a specialized field of study and career. Childcare providers are some of the most underpaid, undervalued professionals and they have the ability to significantly shape the physical, cognitive, and emotional development of our youngest and most impressionable children. Those entering this field often need financial support to take the courses and earn the required credentials to be prepared for the challenges of teaching young children. This bill will expand those eligible for financial awards to enter the field and address the workforce shortages.

We urge you to support SB600 - Education - Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund - Alterations to support those seeking to enter the field of child care and support the industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P M Brown". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Chair