

**March 25, 2024**

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

**Provider Name: Shaquietta Dean**

**Program Name: SEELA (School of Excellence Early Learning Academy)**

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My name is Shaquietta Dean and I'm an aspiring Family Childcare provider planning to open soon. I have participated with and received support throughout the licensing process from GOFCC.

GOFCC has helped launch 11 new family childcare programs across Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties since 2023. There are 30 more individuals working with Child Resource Connect currently, including 6 more in an entirely Spanish-speaking cohort.

Throughout my experience with GOFCC the facilitators have been readily available to provide support answering on demand questions, providing training, resources for outsourced training as well as the blueprint process to obtain licensing for quality childcare within the county. Quality childcare in my area within Prince Georges County provides the opportunity for children to learn and grow within safe and nurturing environments that focus on the overall wellbeing of the whole child.

Quality childcare is necessary and knowing what quality childcare entails matters so much more. GOFCC works to ensure this is possible. Our children are important, our children matter, our children deserve quality childcare throughout our communities.

Businesses large and small are counting on employees. Employees are counting on childcare providers! I know that families are counting on me and GOFCC is making a real difference. Marylanders need this to continue!

We urge the General Assembly to make this pilot a permanent part of the childcare 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.

Sincerely,

Shaquietta Dean

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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!

Please allow GOFCC to continue to spearhead this initiative.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shaquietta Dean