



**Maryland State  
Family Child Care  
Association**  
www.msfccca.org

## Testimony HB 1139- Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program- Permanent Establishment

February 21, 2024

Position: Favorable

Honorable Chair Attenbeary and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization advocating on behalf of over 4,000 family childcare providers in Maryland.

I am honored to offer testimony in support of HB 1139, the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program permanent establishment, sponsored by Delegate Solomon. As a representative of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association, which comprises over 4,000 family childcare programs statewide, I strongly advocate for the passage of this crucial legislation.

The Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program, initially launched as a temporary initiative, has demonstrated its effectiveness in addressing the pressing need for accessible and high-quality childcare services in our communities. However, as evidenced by the decline in the number of family childcare programs from 4,436 in 2022 to 4,008 in 2024, it is evident that sustained efforts are necessary to reverse this trend and ensure that working families have reliable childcare options.

By establishing this program as a permanent fixture, we can provide essential support to family childcare providers and expand the availability of childcare slots across the state. This legislation will not only offer grants to assist in establishing and sustaining local programs but also prioritize areas with above-average rates of poverty and unemployment, where the need for childcare is most acute.

Furthermore, the provisions outlined in HB 1139, including technical assistance, financial incentives, and start-up assistance, will empower individuals to become registered family childcare providers, thereby enriching our childcare infrastructure and fostering economic opportunities for entrepreneurs.

While we commend the focus on family childcare in this bill, we also encourage its extension to include childcare centers. By broadening the scope of the program, we can ensure that all families, regardless of their circumstances, have access to the high-quality early childhood education and care that is essential for their children's development and their own economic stability.



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In conclusion, the Maryland State Family Child Care Association urges the Committee to support HB 1139 and take decisive action to make the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program a permanent resource for Maryland's families. By investing in childcare today, we are investing in the future of our children and our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
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