

Hearing Testimony February 12, 2025
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Service Employees International Union, Local 500

SB516
Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program – Funding

SUPPORT

SEIU Local 500 represents over 20,000 working people in Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia. Our union represents the support staff at the Montgomery County Public School system, Family Child Care Providers, Faculty and Staff at several Maryland colleges and universities, staff at non-profits and many other working people across the region. We urge a FAVORABLE Report on SB516 – **Property Tax - Day Care Centers, Child Care Homes, and Child Care Centers**. We would also like to thank Senator King for her many years as an advocate for the child care community.

The intent of property tax credit is to encourage and incentivize property owners to invest and support growth and development in the community. SB516 includes numerous important components that support the critical child care businesses as they are the fabric of the community and the workforce behind the workforce.

Comptroller Lierman's *State of the Economy* series released on December 31, 2024 clearly shows the need to address the recovery and decline of child care in Maryland. This bill speaks to the report by supporting equity in child care through broadening the language in current law to include large family child care businesses, who were previously not included in the personal property tax credit or the allowable exemptions for family child care businesses. SB 516 increases the maximum allowable property tax credit to \$10,000 limit, therefore helps the economy in a small, but important way. This bill reforms the current allowable credit to and takes inflation into consideration because when the property tax credit law was created \$3,000 was sufficient. However forty years later, we must increase the credit to make it meaningful.

Child care impacts everyone directly and indirectly, and SB 516 enables localities to expand their property tax credit incentives to include all licensed child care businesses. Therefore, we request a favorable report.