

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

February 12, 2025

SB 610 - Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program - Funding**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 610**, which expands funding for the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program. By increasing state funding from \$450,000 to \$900,000 annually for FY 2027 and FY 2028, this bill enhances support for family child care providers, allowing them to access startup assistance, materials, and professional development opportunities. Expanding access to affordable, high-quality child care is essential for Maryland's workforce and economic growth, and this bill provides critical resources to help meet that demand.

For many community college student parents, access to reliable child care is a determining factor in their ability to complete their education. Family child care providers offer flexible, local options that working students can depend on, reducing barriers to degree completion and workforce advancement. Maryland's community colleges also play a vital role in training early childhood educators and supporting student parents. SB 610 aligns with these efforts by strengthening the family child care system that so many students rely on.

Investing in child care is an investment in Maryland's future workforce and, accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 610**.

Please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org) with questions.