

SB 610 final testimony Feb 12 2025 pdf only.pdf

Uploaded by: Christina Peusch

Position: FAV

Maryland State Child Care Association

2810 Carrollton Road
Annapolis, Md. 21403
Phone: (410) 820-9196
Email: info@mscca.org
www.mscca.org

Caring For Maryland's Most Important Natural Resource™

The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is a non-profit, statewide, professional association incorporated in 1984 to promote the growth and development of child care and learning centers in Maryland. MSCCA has over 5500 members working in the field of child care/early childhood education. We believe children are our most important natural resource and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

Testimony: SB 610: Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program-Funding Submitted to: Budget and Taxation Committee Feb 12, 2025

MSCCA fully supports SB 610.

Family child care programs are essential to the workforce and communities. This important legislation recognizes the success of the Growing Family Child Care pilot program in Maryland.

The successful Growing Family Child Care program, now permanently in law, needs funding to address the decline of child care providers and to support overall capacity building to increase seats, especially for our infants and toddlers. SB 610 provides the necessary funding to continue to support family child care providers throughout the state and ultimately benefit families and children they serve. Family Child Care is an important option for child care.

SB 610 is critical in supporting working families in developmentally appropriate settings and provides funding for the program to build capacity in desperately declining businesses. Many areas of the state have child care deserts where child care, especially family child care is acutely needed.

The child care industry has not fully recovered from the pandemic and was tenuous prior to the pandemic. According to the recent Comptroller's State of the Economy report released on December 31, 2024, child care has lost over 1,200 providers and more than 12,000 child care seats post COVID. Family-based providers have historically provided care for more infants (0-18 months), and the decline in family-based providers (which are more affordable, more likely to offer varied hours, and more likely to be located in residential neighborhoods) means fewer options for workers who have non-traditional schedules, limited transportation access, or do not qualify for the scholarship program. A <https://marylandtaxes.gov/reports/static-files/research/childcare.pdf>

The cost of child care is increasing to keep up with costs of inflation and as it does, female unemployment decreases by 5%. Already, 160,000 women have left the workforce due to primarily child care and transportation issues. For decades, we have undervalued and underinvested in our child care system, and now our economy—and our most vulnerable workers—are paying the price.

It will take the combined efforts of the federal government, state leaders, and businesses to ensure every family has access to affordable, quality childcare that can move the country and its economy forward.

SB 610 makes an impact by building capacity, which leads to more access to child care for families. Child care is an important economic and equity imperative and child care providers are the backbone of society. SB 610 supports the growth of family child care in our neighborhoods and communities as they are the fabric of family support, while also driving the economy.

MSCCA urges a favorable report.

SB0610_MACC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Drew Jabin

Position: FAV

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.

SEIU Local 500 - SB610 - Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Elly Colmers

Position: FAV

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

SB610
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 SB610 – **Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program – Funding**. We would also like to thank Senator King for her many years as an advocate for the child care community.

SB610 recognizes the vital role of family child care programs in both the workforce and local communities and provides essential funding to the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program so that it can continue to support family child care providers throughout the state and ultimately benefit the families and children they serve.

The child care sector continues to face challenges, exacerbated by the pandemic's impact. According to MSDE, over 800 child care programs/providers have been lost, and the escalating costs of child care, coupled with inflation, have contributed to a decline in female employment, as noted in a recent report from the Comptroller's office, with about 160,000 women exiting the workforce due primarily to child care and transportation obstacles. The top reason why so many Marylanders did not return to work after the pandemic when their businesses or employers reopened was they could not find affordable, reliable, quality child care. Maryland needs to take proactive steps, or the child care work force will continue to decline and parents will be left with even fewer options for child care.

Child care businesses are facing critical workforce shortage supply. Our state needs to encourage more diverse and equitable candidates to join the child care profession, and we believe that the funding provided for in SB610 will help address these issues by helping to build a qualified and diverse child care workforce. We urge a favorable report.

SB 610_FAV_MFN_Weeldreyer_GO FCC.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Weeldreyer

Position: FAV



Testimony Concerning SB 610
“Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program - Funding”
Submitted to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 12, 2025

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports SB 610, which would ensure continued funding for the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program, which increases and sustains the supply of family child care.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and early childhood education as well as other supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on child care policy and are strongly committed to ensuring that children, along with their parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.

Registered family child care is a critical component of Maryland's child care delivery system. Family child care providers offer child care that most closely resembles the care that children receive in their own homes. Family child care providers care for many children who have special needs or need care during nontraditional hours. In rural areas, where population density may not support larger child care centers, family child care providers play a particularly important role. They also provide linguistically and culturally appropriate care within many communities in the State.

The Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program has increased the supply of family child care programs and ensured the sustainability of new and existing ones, particularly in underserved communities. In just 25 months, the Program has opened 198 new businesses and added 1,375 child care slots across 19 jurisdictions. This includes 312 slots specifically for infants and toddlers.

The Program helps address the child care access challenges that often impact a family's ability to work or attend school. It helps reverse the trend of family child care closures, especially in underserved areas like Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore, and supports the efforts of low-income women—many in communities of color—to establish successful small businesses.

MFN respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 610.

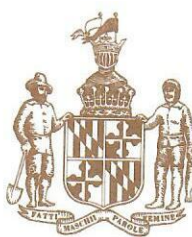
Submitted by Laura Weeldreyer, Executive Director



SB610-King-Sponsor Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Nancy King

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 610 – Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program – Funding

February 12, 2025

Mister Chairman and Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

Even prior to the pandemic, the number of Family Child Care Programs (FCC) had been on the decline. These programs, which are different from Child Care Centers, are typically owned and run by women who care for up to eight children at a time in their homes. In Maryland the number of these Family Child Care programs have gone from approximately 12,500 in 1996 to 4300 in 2023. This is a trend that is mirrored nationally. There are many factors that have contributed to this decline: arduous approval processes through multiple layers of governments, lack of resources and support for their small business, and difficulties accessing professional development.

In 2015, a Montgomery County program was developed to help individuals who want to start a family child care program or need help with an existing program by providing resources not readily available or in some instances not available at all. This highly successful program has helped to create new family child care centers and opened up hundreds of new child care slots in some of the highest poverty areas in Montgomery County

In 2021 legislation was passed to take this very successful program and set up a pilot program in the State. Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) administers the pilot program in concert with the State's network of child care resource centers. The results of this program have been exceptional. In the first full year of implementation, there were 320 participants. 101 participants received licenses which equates to 796 new child care slots.

As of November 2024, Growing Opportunities for Family Child Care (GOFCC), has facilitated the opening of 185 Family Child Care programs across the state and has increased the number of Family Child Care slots available to children by 1,260. GOFCC has also helped newly licensed providers to participate in [Maryland EXCELS](#), the state's quality rating and improvement system.

Maryland families depend on quality child care to allow parents to keep their jobs and support their families. This legislation supports not only the parents who need care for their children, but Marylanders who are trying to open and run a small business to support their families. Increasing the availability of high-quality child care is integral to the state's economic stability and this low cost, high impact program is a way to increase and retain childcare openings in Maryland.

Senate Bill 610 will continue funding for this highly successful program and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 610.