



Testimony Concerning HB824 – Family and Medical Leave Insurance
Program – Covered Individuals – Alternatively Qualified Individuals

Submitted to House Economic Matters Committee

February 11, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit association advocating for registered family child care providers and large family child care providers in Maryland. These small businesses are a vital part of the childcare delivery and the early education system in Maryland. Family child care offers a unique learning environment, flexible enough to meet each child's needs individually and the special relationships formed by children of various ages in family child care enhances the learning experience for all.

MSFCCA is a strong advocate in supporting and strengthening relationships between children and their parents, guardians, and caregivers.

Research and development have shown that the most crucial time for bonding with young children is in the first few years of their lives, specifically from birth to the age of three (3). HB 824 would provide financial assistance to enable parents, guardians, and caregivers to bond with young children in their lives during this crucial developmental period in the child's life.

MSFCCA's only concern is the financial impact during this current budget and the feasibility of implementing this program.

Maryland has been a consistent leader in early care policy that impacts the children of Maryland and giving HB 824 a favorable vote will go forward in fostering positive relationships between children and the people that care for and impact their lives.

MSFCCA appreciates the opportunity to comment on this legislation and welcomes any questions or comments. Feel free to contact Rebecca Hancock, the MSFCCA Vice President of Public Policy at (240) 299-0222 (cell), (301) 934-4445 (home), or kaysplayhousechildcare@gmail.com to answer any questions concerning this testimony.

Respectfully yours,

Rebecca Hancock

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Maryland State Family Child Association