



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

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 868
Senate Committee: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
March 5, 2025

Position: Favorable

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Ruby Daniels**, and I am the President of the **Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA)**, representing over **4,000 family childcare providers across the state**. I write today **in strong support of Senate Bill 868**, which seeks to establish the Substitute Child Care Provider Pool Pilot Program to address the persistent staffing challenges faced by childcare providers.

For family childcare providers, the lack of access to qualified substitutes is one of our greatest barriers to sustainability. Unlike childcare centers, family childcare homes operate independently, often with a single provider responsible for every aspect of care. When we need to take a doctor's appointment, attend a training, or deal with a personal emergency, there are no reliable options for temporary coverage. Many providers are forced to cancel care for families, disrupting not only their income but also the working parents who rely on us.

Senate Bill 868 presents a real solution by creating a substitute provider pool—a structured, vetted network of trained childcare professionals who can temporarily step in when needed. By ensuring that substitutes meet licensing, training, and background check requirements, this program will provide peace of mind to providers, parents, and children alike.

Additionally, this bill recognizes the unique needs of different regions, ensuring that providers in rural, suburban, and urban areas have access to substitutes. The ability to match providers through a digital platform will streamline the process, allowing family childcare providers to find coverage quickly and efficiently when emergencies arise.

However, while I strongly support this initiative, I urge the committee to consider expanding access beyond the initial three regions as quickly as possible. The need for substitutes exists statewide and ensuring broader participation will maximize the impact of this program for Maryland's childcare providers and working families.

Family childcare providers are the foundation of early childhood education, offering high-quality, home-based care in a nurturing environment. To keep our businesses sustainable, we need flexibility and support, and Senate Bill 868 is a critical step forward. I respectfully urge the committee to support and advance this bill to ensure that Maryland's family childcare providers have the resources needed to continue serving families without disruption.



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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruby Daniels

President, Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA)