



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Testimony in Support of SB 868
“Substitute Child Care Provider Pool Pilot Program - Established”
Submitted to the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
March 5, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) supports SB 868, which would establish the Substitute Child Care Provider Pool Pilot Program. This program would help child care providers to meet their short-term staffing needs by making available a pool of qualified child care substitute providers.

MDAEYC is a professional association of 1,700 early childhood educators, allied professionals, and families. We promote high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood education practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

MDAEYC supports the creation of this substitute pool program because we know there is a great need for substitute child care providers. When child care programs do not have enough staff on a given day, they must either move administrative staff to cover a classroom on an emergency basis, or close the classroom for the day. Finding substitute coverage is especially difficult for family child care providers, who often close their programs for the days they need to be away. Having a pool of qualified substitute providers would be immensely helpful to programs when they are short-staffed.

Creating this substitute pool program as a pilot program is an appropriate approach. After the five-year pilot has obtained results, Maryland legislators, agencies and other stakeholders can review its effectiveness and determine whether it should become a permanent program.

For these reasons, MDAEYC respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 868.

If you have any questions, please contact: Stephanie Schaefer, PhD. Program Coordinator, at stephanie.schaefer@mdaeyc.org or 240-441-3280.