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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 14, 2025

To: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our unanimous support for HB785: Common Ownership Communities and Zoning Authorities - Operation of Family Child Care Homes - Limitations. This important legislation prohibits provisions in cooperative housing corporation documents from restricting the establishment or operation of family child care homes and from limiting the number of children served below the number authorized by the State Department of Education.

Access to quality, affordable child care is a fundamental need for Maryland families, particularly for women, who often bear the brunt of caregiving responsibilities. Family child care homes play a crucial role in addressing this need by providing accessible and flexible care options within residential communities. However, restrictive provisions in community governing documents can create unnecessary barriers that hinder the availability of these essential services.

HB785 represents a significant step toward supporting working parents, especially mothers, by ensuring that family child care providers can operate without undue restrictions. By expanding access to child care, this legislation helps women remain active in the workforce, supports children's development in safe, nurturing environments, and strengthens family well-being across the state.

We respectfully urge the Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a favorable report for HB785. By supporting this bill, we can remove unnecessary obstacles to child care access, empower women, and promote the growth and stability of Maryland families.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued dedication to improving the lives of Marylanders.