



February 14, 2025

Testimony in Support of House Bill 785 – Common Ownership Communities and Zoning Authorities - Operation of Family Child Care Homes - Limitations

We respectfully urge the Environment & Transportation Committee to make a favorable report on HB 785, Operation of Family Child Care Homes, as we believe it will help improve access to affordable child care in our community.

Maryland is facing a child care crisis right now where there are not enough seats available in licensed child care settings to serve the young children who need care. In Montgomery County, a recent supply and demand study found that there are only enough seats in licensed child care programs for 19% of the infants and toddlers that live in our County.¹ Many families rely on Family Child Care for their infants and toddlers as it's more affordable, but according to the 2024 Child Care Demographics report for Montgomery County, published by the Maryland Family Network, the number of Family Child Care Providers is on a precipitously declining path – from 821 in 2019, to 779 in 2023, and headed towards 689 in 2028 if we don't intervene and support these providers.²

The Maryland State Department of Education regulates Family Child Care providers based on thorough study and policy. Common Ownership Communities and Zoning Authorities should not be able to impose different or stricter limitations on Family Child Care Homes than the existing state regulations. Our economy needs these Family Child Care homes to survive and thrive and provide care for our youngest children.

Submitted on behalf of the Children's Opportunity Alliance by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Jahromi".

Laura Jahromi, Manager, Strategic Initiatives
The Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance
1801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852 | 301-450-1871 |
laura@mocochildren.org

The Montgomery County [Children's Opportunity Alliance](#) is a locally legislated Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity that connects our community to build an equitable, accessible, high-quality, and sustainable early childhood system that narrows disparities and puts young children on a path to reach their greatest potential.

¹

https://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=16318&meta_id=185918

² <https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/Montgomery%202024.pdf>