



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

Testimony - House Bill 785

Submitted to the Environment and Transportation Committee

By Ruby Daniels, President, Maryland State Family Child Care Association

February 18, 2025

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair Marc Korman and Vice Chair Regina Boyce,  
and Esteemed Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Ruby Daniels, and I am the President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) and a dedicated family child care provider in Columbia, Howard County. I am here today to express my strong support for House Bill 785, which seeks to remove unnecessary barriers that restrict the expansion and operation of family child care homes and large family child care homes in common ownership communities and under local zoning laws.

As a provider who has successfully operated a licensed family child care program, I know firsthand the critical role that small, home-based child care settings play in ensuring that Maryland families have access to safe, high-quality, and affordable early childhood education. However, current city ordinances, such as those in Columbia, prevent providers like me from expanding to a large family child care home—arbitrarily limiting my ability to serve more children despite having the space, staffing, and qualifications necessary to do so.

This restriction has significant consequences for families in our community. In Howard County, there is currently only one large family child care home, located near the Prince George's County border. This means that families who need flexible, home-based care with smaller ratios and personalized attention have extremely limited options. House Bill 785 would eliminate these restrictive zoning policies, allowing providers like myself to expand our programs to meet the increasing demand for child care in our communities.

Expanding family child care programs is a **direct solution** to Maryland's child care crisis:

It **increases child care supply**, creating additional slots to meet the needs of working families. Expanding my program alone would provide four additional child care slots—a small but meaningful impact in a system struggling with shortages.

It helps **stabilize and reduce child care costs**. Many families in Maryland struggle to afford child care, which can cost more than college tuition. Increasing the supply of licensed care may help ease financial burdens for families who are already stretched thin.

It strengthens Maryland's workforce. Working parents rely on affordable, accessible child care in order to stay employed. When providers are restricted from expanding, families are left without reliable options, forcing some parents—particularly mothers—out of the workforce.

Family child care homes are not commercial businesses—they are an extension of the residential community, providing a critical service in a safe, home-like setting. Preventing their expansion



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based on outdated zoning classifications only exacerbates the child care shortage without any proven benefit to the neighborhoods in which they operate. House Bill 785 will modernize regulations by ensuring that local jurisdictions and housing associations cannot impose artificial restrictions that limit child care availability.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support House Bill 785 and remove unnecessary barriers that prevent family child care providers from meeting the needs of Maryland families. Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,  
Ruby Daniels  
President, Maryland State Family Child Care Association  
Family Child Care Provider, Columbia, Howard County