



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Ways and Means Committee

HB 862: Child Care Affordability Commission - Establishment

February 25, 2025

Position: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to lead the lives they want with the support they need. As such, we are closely involved in policy, practice, and legal changes that increase access to quality and quality child care where children with and without disabilities learn, play, and succeed together. As such, we support HB 862, ***with an amendment to include a member of the Commission with knowledge and expertise about issues affecting young children with disabilities and their families.***

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Establishes the Child Care Affordability Commission to study and made recommendations about child care affordability in Maryland.

WHY is it important?

- Increasing access to early care and education for Maryland's children is critical for their development. This is particularly true for young children with disabilities who need more access and opportunity to learn and play alongside their peers without disabilities.
- A lot of progress has been made to support the child care needs of working families. Significant investments in the Child Care Scholarship Program (CCSP) have been made to expand access to quality child care for more families who struggle to find, keep, and pay for child care.
- Child care programs must provide children with disabilities and their families an equal opportunity to participate by providing reasonable modifications, accommodations, and appropriate auxiliary aids and services needed for effective communication.ⁱ Some of these additional accommodations may be costly. In recognition of that, **Maryland law allows for increased CCSP reimbursement rates to a child care provider for the additional costs of providing one-time or ongoing accommodations to a child with a disability – up to 15% above the traditional reimbursement rates or more if approved by MSDE.**ⁱⁱ

By reviewing lessons learned, identifying solutions to challenges, and creating a path forward, the Commission will help even more Maryland families. **By including a member with knowledge and expertise about families of young children with disabilities, and the child care laws, policies, and practices that affect them, the Commission will be even more effective.**

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ⁱ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 (2009).

ⁱⁱ COMAR 13A.14.06.11(E)(5).