

**HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE  
SB359: Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program – Funding – Alterations  
March 19, 2025  
Position: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**



Children served through The Arc Montgomery County's KFICCC Therapeutic Child Care Program

**The Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program funding is cut by 2.2 million in the FY26 budget.** The Arc Maryland helps parents and medically complex children who rely on this program so parents can continue to work, and children receive necessary care to survive and have a head start for health and skill development. This cut will hurt our programs and make them unsustainable to support children and their parents.

**As such, we urge the Ways and Means committee to make changes to SB359 to restore the needed funding and ensure its continuance in future fiscal years.**

Requested Amendment:

On page 2, lines 26-28, change the start year from 2027 to 2026, and keep appropriation at \$3,700,000:

Line 26 EACH OF FISCAL YEARS ~~2027~~ **2026** THROUGH 2029, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$3,700,000 to the Program.

Explanation: We thank Senator King and Delegate Mireku North for this important legislation which was intended to pick up the continuation of the program at a level-funded appropriation from FY25, since the program sunsets this year. Unfortunately, the

bill includes program continuation effective dates listed as FY27 to FY29, omitting FY26 and omitting a funding mandate for the FY26 budget year. The Governor's proposed budget includes an appropriation of just 1.5 million, instead of the 3.7 million expected by these grantees, parents, professionals that are employed by the Therapeutic Childcare Centers around the state, and children. The program will not survive this severe cut in FY26. Most of their expenses rely on numbers of children served and a balance with professional nursing caregiver time. **They cannot, for example, hire one half of a nurse when a nurse must be present for every hour a child, with a complex medical need, is present in the program.**

We urgently and earnestly request the committee's help to amend this bill and ensure the future of these important programs.

For more information, please contact:

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