



Testimony Concerning HB 862
“Child Care Affordability Commission - Establishment”
Submitted to the House Ways and Means Committee
February 25, 2025

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports HB 862, which would establish a Child Care Affordability Commission to study and make recommendations regarding child care affordability in the State.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and early childhood education as well as other supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on child care policy and are strongly committed to ensuring that children, along with their parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.

Child care keeps parents earning, children learning, and Maryland’s economy churning. Since 2018, our State has made tremendous strides in supporting the child care needs of working families. Despite unprecedented investment in the Child Care Scholarship Program (CCSP), budgetary challenges may threaten the State’s ability to serve all eligible families. A Commission could promptly and judiciously consider how best to solidify Maryland’s progress since 2018, to sustain the extraordinary commitment to CCSP, and to expand access to high quality child care for more families who struggle to find and pay for it.

Maryland is poised to become the country’s very best state for young children, their working families, child care professionals, and the employers who rely on them all. By framing lessons we’ve learned from the past, identifying solutions to challenges of the present, and charting a course for greater achievements in the future, a Commission on Child Care Affordability will help write the success story that Maryland can tell the nation.

MFN urges a favorable report on HB 862.

Submitted by Laura Weeldreyer, Executive Director

