



TESTIMONY FOR HB0862

Child Care Affordability Commission - Establishment

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Solomon

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative

Coalition Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0862 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

My daughter moved to Virginia to start her family because of the towering costs of housing and childcare in our state. So, yes, HB0862 is important to me. However, I am not the only one impacted. Many working families face significant financial challenges when it comes to accessing quality child care, which can hinder their ability to work and support their families. This bill aims to identify and address the obstacles and barriers to child care affordability in the state.

HB0862 establishes the Child Care Affordability Commission, which is tasked with studying and making recommendations regarding the obstacles and barriers to child care affordability in Maryland. The Commission is required to consider various economic measures to support working families and submit an interim report by January 1, 2026, and a final report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by December 1, 2026.

By establishing the Child Care Affordability Commission, the bill ensures that the state takes a comprehensive and informed approach to addressing the high costs of child care. This will help working families access affordable and quality child care, enabling them to work and support their families without the burden of excessive child care expenses. The Commission's recommendations will provide valuable insights and solutions to make child care more accessible and affordable, ultimately benefiting the overall well-being and economic stability of Maryland families.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition steadfastly supports this bill, and similar initiatives intended to strengthen families.