



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

KATE STEWART
PRESIDENT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

HB 389 - Property Tax - Day Care Centers, Child Care Homes, and Child Care Centers
Testimony of Kate Stewart, Montgomery County Councilmember, District 4
Position: SUPPORT
February 4, 2025

My name is Kate Stewart and I serve as the Montgomery County Councilmember for District 4 and as the President of the Montgomery County Council. Today, I am speaking on behalf of myself in support of **Property Tax - Day Care Centers, Child Care Homes, and Child Care Centers (House Bill 389)**.

This legislation would enable local governments to grant a property tax credit against the real property tax owed on the portion of real property used for certain large family child care homes, increase the maximum amount of a property tax credit that may be granted for certain child care homes, child care centers, and day care centers, establish the maximum amount of a property tax credit that may be granted for certain child care homes and child care centers, and generally exempt personal property used in connection with certain large family child care homes from valuation and taxation.

We know that the work of caring for and educating young children is expensive, especially when looking at The Children's Opportunity Alliance's [recent fiscal map](#). This legislation would provide more opportunities to private providers to assist us in achieving this goal statewide by making it more financially feasible to run a day care or child care center.

Child care has a significant impact on other aspects of our economy, such as the number of women in the workforce. The Comptroller of Maryland released [a report](#) last year highlighting that Maryland has experienced more women leaving the workforce compared with women leaving the workforce nationally. It was also noted that Maryland was ranked as the eighth costliest state for childcare in the 2022 Cost of Care Survey. One of the reasons for such high childcare costs is a result of the limited supply of providers across the state. House Bill 389 would not only provide greater incentives for establishing a day care or child care center, but would in turn continue to boost our economy by enabling more women to join the workforce.

I urge you to support this bill to bring more day care and child care centers to Maryland, aid our existing providers in the state, and invest in our economy.