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**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

January 31, 2025

To: Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair  
Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair  
Ways and Means Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our **unanimous support** for **HB389: Districting - Property Tax – Daycare Centers, Child Care Homes, and Child Care Centers**. This critical legislation, sponsored by Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr, is a necessary step in addressing Maryland's growing child care crisis by modernizing outdated property tax credits that counties may offer to child care providers and businesses with on-site child care facilities.

As you are aware, Maryland is facing an alarming shortage of available child care due to the declining number of providers. Rising operational costs, regulatory challenges, and financial burdens have forced many child care providers to shut down, leaving working families—particularly **women**—without access to the child care they need. This crisis disproportionately affects women, who are more likely to scale back their careers or leave the workforce entirely due to a lack of child care options.

The ability to access **affordable, high-quality child care** is essential to fostering economic security for Maryland families, supporting workforce participation, and ensuring the healthy development of young children. **HB389 is a proactive and necessary measure to close the gap in child care availability and support Maryland's families.**

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus **strongly urges** the committee to issue a **favorable report for HB389**. By passing this legislation, we can take a meaningful step toward ensuring that all Maryland families—especially women and children—have the support they need to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your continued dedication to improving the lives of Marylanders.