



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of House Bill 910: Child Care Scholarship Program – Priority for Child Care Providers**

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and Members of the Committee:

Access to affordable and reliable childcare is foundational to a strong workforce and a resilient economy. On behalf of Howard County, I am writing in support of House Bill 910 (HB910) and to thank sponsor Delegate McCaskill for advancing legislation that recognizes and supports the childcare professionals who make workforce participation possible for so many Maryland families.

HB910 would direct the Maryland State Department of Education to establish a framework that prioritizes the children of child care providers for scholarships through the Child Care Scholarship Program. This policy acknowledges a fundamental reality: the stability of our childcare system depends on the ability of providers themselves to access affordable care for their own families.

Childcare providers are essential workers whose labor enables parents across every sector of our economy to go to work each day. Yet many providers face the same affordability challenges as the families they serve. By prioritizing their children for scholarships, HB910 offers a targeted, practical solution to support recruitment, retention, and long-term sustainability within the childcare workforce.

In Howard County, we continue to hear from employers, families, and providers alike that access to quality childcare is one of the most significant barriers to workforce participation and economic mobility. Policies that strengthen the childcare workforce directly advance our shared goals of economic competitiveness, equity, and family stability.

HB910 represents a thoughtful and measured approach that leverages existing programs while delivering meaningful support to the workers at the core of our childcare system.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to give HB910 a favorable report. Thank you for your continued commitment to Maryland's families and workforce.

Respectfully,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive