



# House Bill 561

## **Maryland Child Care Credential Program – Extension of Funding**

**Hearing Date: February 24, 2026**

**House Appropriations Committee/ Ways and Means Committee**

### **Position- Favorable**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ruby Daniels. I am a family childcare provider with over 30 years of experience serving children and families in Maryland. I am also the President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA), representing nearly 4,000 family childcare providers across the state. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 561.

The Maryland Child Care Credential Program is one of the most critical workforce support systems available to family childcare providers. As small business owners operating primarily from our homes, many of us work with very limited financial margins. The training vouchers, reimbursements, and achievement bonuses provided through this program make professional development accessible and attainable.

For family childcare providers, these training vouchers are essential. They allow us to attend conferences, complete required professional development training, earn or renew our Child Development Associate (CDA) and pursue administrator credentials. Without this financial support, many providers would not be able to afford the cost of continuing education.

Continuous funding for the Maryland Child Care Credential Program ensures that providers can:

- Maintain compliance with state licensing regulations
- Advance along professional career pathways
- Improve instructional quality and classroom environments
- Strengthen outcomes for children and families

When educators grow professionally, children benefit developmentally and academically. Families benefit from higher-quality programs. Maryland benefits from a stronger, more stable early childhood workforce.

House Bill 561 provides critical stability by requiring the Governor to maintain funding at no less than the Fiscal Year 2024 level beginning in



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Fiscal Year 2028 and beyond. This predictable funding structure allows providers to plan their professional growth with confidence.

Sustaining this program is an investment in quality, workforce retention, and the long-term success of Maryland's early childhood system.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 561.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of Maryland's childcare professionals.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruby Daniels  
President, Maryland State Family Child Care Association  
Family Child Care Provider, Howard County