



March 2, 2026

**Education, Energy and Environment Committee
Maryland State Senate
Annapolis, MD 21401**

Re: Testimony concerning support for:

SB 664 – Child Care Scholarship Program: Child Care Providers Priority

(Senator Kevin M. Harris (D–District 27))

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rossana Espinoza-Thorndahl. I am a resident of Montgomery County and Senior Director of the Latino Child Care Association of Maryland, Inc. (LCAM). LCAM is a nonprofit organization representing hundreds of Spanish-speaking family child care providers and early childhood educators in the state. I am providing written testimony on behalf of our organization.

The Latino Child Care Association of Maryland, we are writing to express our **strong support** for **SB 664 – Child Care Scholarship Program: Child Care Providers Priority**, scheduled for a hearing on March 4 before the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee.

SB 664 is a **simple, practical, and urgently needed measure** that would prioritize child care providers on the Child Care Scholarship Program (CCSP) waitlist. This improvement is especially important because **many family child care educators and center-based educators across Maryland rely on the CCSP to support their own families while continuing to provide essential care to others**. These educators form the backbone of the early childhood system, yet they often face financial barriers that threaten their ability to remain in the workforce.

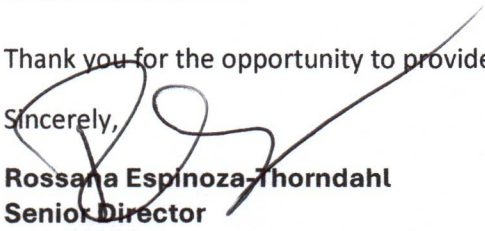
By ensuring that child care providers receive timely access to CCSP, SB 664 strengthens the stability of the child care workforce, supports small businesses, and helps maintain consistent, high-quality care for children and families. Prioritizing providers within the program is both **fair and strategic**, recognizing the critical role they play in sustaining Maryland's child care infrastructure.

We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report** on SB 664.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Maryland's children, families, and early childhood educators.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Sincerely,


Rossana Espinoza-Thorndahl
Senior Director
Latino Child Care Association of Maryland, Inc. (LCAM)
240-883-1699
info@lcam-md.com