

NANCY J. KING  
*Legislative District 39*  
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Chair*  
Education, Business and  
Administration Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 120  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3686 · 410-841-3686  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3686  
Fax 301-858-3670 · 410-841-3670  
Nancy.King@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Senate Bill 467 – Maryland Child Care Credentialing Program – Extension of Funding**

March 10, 2026

Mister Chairman and Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

The Maryland Child Care Credentialing Program was established as part of The Blueprint for Maryland's Future and was designed to recognize and reward individual child care providers who go above and beyond state licensing requirements. The program serves as a part of Maryland's early childhood education workforce strategy, to support professional development, improve child care quality, and incentivize providers to pursue higher levels of training and education.

The program's funding was mandated under the Blueprint through Fiscal Year 2024. Unfortunately, the funding was not included in the FY 2025 budget, so the program lapsed for one year. Funding was restored for FY 2026 but was not included in the Governor's FY 2027 budget.

The one year lapse in funding had significant consequences. Roughly 8,400 child care providers were unable to renew their credentials for more than a year. Providers were also unable to access promised state funding to help defray their costs for professional development. Even when funding resumed at the start of FY 2026, the program still didn't get back up and running for nearly seven months because MSDE had to go through the procurement process to get a new vendor to administer the application webportal.

This disruption had a tangible impact on our child care workforce, creating uncertainty and halting career advancement efforts for many, and undermining a program that childcare professionals had come to rely on for recognition and reimbursement for professional training. Senate Bill 467 will ensure that the Maryland Child Care Credential Program is protected from future funding interruptions by restoring mandated funding and maintaining continuity of operations.

Our early childhood educators are an essential part of the economic infrastructure of our state and the Maryland Child Care Credentialing program is a vital resource for recruitment, advancement and retention of our state's early childhood educators. Passage of this legislation will ensure stability and predictability in a program that elevates our early childhood educators and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 467.