



Testimony Concerning SB 503
“Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program - Funding”
Submitted to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 18, 2026

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports SB 503, which would continue funding for the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities (GO FCC) Program and increase the supply of family child care.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and other supports for children and their families. We have been active in state and federal debates on policies that address the needs of working families and are strongly committed to ensuring that they have the supports they need to care for their children while meeting the demands of their jobs.

Registered family child care is a critical component of Maryland's child care delivery system. Family child care providers offer care that most closely resembles the care that children receive in their own homes. Family child care providers care for many children who have special needs or need care during nontraditional hours. In rural areas, where population density may not support larger child care centers, family child care providers play a particularly important role. They also provide linguistically and culturally appropriate care within many communities in the State.

GO FCC guides aspiring child care providers through the State licensing process, gives them training in business concepts, and provides support for quality improvement and program sustainability. The program is expanding care in communities that had few or no child care options. Coaches do targeted recruiting in child care deserts and high-need communities. They provide training on things like contracts, marketing, fee structures, and taxes. Program graduates become small business owners who are meeting a need in their communities.

The program has achieved and documented remarkable outcomes, ultimately helping expand the supply of quality child care while supporting the efforts of low-income women—many in communities of color—to establish successful small businesses. From 2022 through the end of 2025, the program has opened 278 new family child care programs for a total of 1,957 new slots. Of note, 443 of the new slots that have opened were for infants and toddlers. Ninety three percent of GO FCC providers are still in business.

SB 503 will extend the commitment to this program and ensure that our State builds on its remarkable success. MFN urges your favorable consideration.