



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

**Testimony in Support of SB 467**  
**"Maryland Child Care Credential Program - Extension of Funding"**  
**Submitted to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**March 9, 2026**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) supports SB 467, which would restore and extend funding to the Maryland Child Care Credential Program.

MDAEYC is a professional association of 1,700 early childhood educators, allied professionals, and families. We promote high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood education practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

We support SB 467 because Maryland's early childhood workforce is in crisis, and the suspension of the Child Care Credential Program has exacerbated this crisis. The program was suspended on June 30, 2024, due to lack of funding in the state budget, affecting over 20,000 early childhood educators. Funds were restored for Fiscal Year 2025, but the program is unfunded for Fiscal Year 2026.

Maryland faces an ongoing child care crisis and workforce shortage. Early childhood educators earn an average of \$34,000 per year—among the lowest wages in our economy—while performing work that is foundational to children's development and families' economic stability.<sup>1</sup> The Child Care Credential Program was one of the few mechanisms through which Maryland recognized these professionals' expertise and supported their continued education.

When we fail to support our early childhood workforce, we cannot maintain the stable, high-quality care that Maryland's children and working families need. The Credential Program is a proven investment that helps retain qualified educators, encourages professional growth, and ultimately improves outcomes for children.

Child care is essential infrastructure for Maryland's economy. When child care educators lack support and leave the field, child care programs close or reduce capacity, and working families are forced to reduce work hours, turn down opportunities, or leave the workforce entirely. The Child Care Credential Program is not simply a workforce support; it is an investment in Maryland's economic vitality and the well-being of children and families across the state.

For these reasons, MDAEYC supports SB 467 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

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<sup>1</sup> First Five Years Fund. (2026, January 26). *Child Care and Early Learning in Maryland*. <https://www.ffyf.org/states/maryland/>