



February 17, 2026

Testimony in Support of House Bill 543 – Extend Funding for the Maryland Child Care Credential Program

**We respectfully urge the Economic Matters committee to make a favorable report on HB 543.**

Family Child Care homes are an integral part of a mixed delivery system for child care in the state of Maryland, one which values family choice, stresses the primary nature of quality relationships in learning for young children, and provides flexible options for nontraditional schedules and cultural alignment. It is critical that we create a system which allows Family Child Care homes to flourish.

The State of Supply and Demand for Childcare in Montgomery County, MD<sup>1</sup> report revealed that there are enough licensed child care seats for 83% of preschoolers (ages two to five) that live in the county but only enough licensed seats for infants and toddlers to serve 19% of the children under two who live in our county. This leaves a critical gap in supply for our youngest children.

Family Child Care homes commonly serve infants and toddlers with more affordable tuition prices than centers can offer to families. Family child care homes are critical to improving the supply gap for families with infants and toddlers. And yet, since the pandemic, Family Child Care homes are in a continued state of decline. According to the Maryland Family Network Demographics report, there 5,132 Family Child Care providers in 2020, yet in 2024 there were only 4,110. This is a trend that must be reversed.

HB543 will ease the relationship between Family Child Care owners and their landlords, creating a better mixed delivery system in Maryland.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Jahromi".

Laura Jahromi, Manager, Strategic Initiatives  
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The Montgomery County [Children's Opportunity Alliance](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/StateSupplyDemand_final_January2025.pdf) connects our community to build an equitable, accessible, high-quality, and sustainable early childhood system that narrows disparities and puts all young children on a path to reach their greatest potential.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/StateSupplyDemand\\_final\\_January2025.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/StateSupplyDemand_final_January2025.pdf)

