



**Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 664  
Child Care Scholarship Program – Priority for Child Care Providers**  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
**Date of Hearing: March 4, 2026**

**Position: Favorable**

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ruby Daniels. I am the President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) and a licensed family childcare provider with over 30 years of experience serving working families in Maryland. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 664.

Senate Bill 664 recognizes a simple but critical reality: childcare providers are **working parents too**. Many individuals who work in licensed childcare centers, registered family childcare homes, and large family childcare homes struggle to afford care for their own children. Prioritizing their children for the Child Care Scholarship Program is **not a special benefit**, it is a **workforce stabilization strategy**.

Maryland continues to face **a shortage of childcare slots**. Programs have closed, classrooms remain understaffed, and families are placed on long waitlists. At the same time, providers leave the profession because they cannot afford childcare for their own children or cannot balance employment without reliable support.

If we support the workforce, **we increase access for families**.

When a childcare center hires just one additional qualified staff member, it can allow the program to open approximately 10 additional childcare slots. In family childcare, stabilizing one provider can preserve between 8 and 12 slots that might otherwise be lost. By ensuring providers can afford care for their own children, this bill helps retain staff and expand capacity for working families across Maryland.

Senate Bill 664 will:

- Improve recruitment and retention of childcare professionals
- Reduce staff turnover and classroom closures



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Family Child Care  
Association**  
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- **Preserve and expand childcare capacity**
- Strengthen access for working families

**Childcare is the backbone of Maryland's workforce.** When providers are supported, parents can go to work. When providers leave, families and local economies feel the impact.

Senate Bill 664 is a practical and thoughtful step toward strengthening Maryland's childcare system. I respectfully urge a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Ruby Daniels**

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