



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

**Testimony in Support of SB 664**  
**"Child Care Scholarship Program - Child Care Providers - Priority"**  
**Submitted to the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**March 2, 2026**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) supports SB 664, which would prioritize eligible child care providers on the Child Care Scholarship Program waitlist so they can access scholarships for their own children.

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 early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

We support SB 664 because Maryland's child care providers, who earn an average of just \$34,000 per year, often cannot afford care for their own children. Many eligible providers care for other families' children all day but struggle to access quality care for their own. When providers cannot afford child care, they reduce hours or leave the field entirely—directly reducing Maryland's child care capacity and supply. By prioritizing eligible providers for scholarships, this legislation supports workforce retention while maintaining the child care slots that other families depend on. This is particularly urgent given the current scholarship freeze and waitlist of over 3,000 children.

Prioritizing eligible providers benefits Maryland's entire early childhood system. Providers who can access affordable care for their own children are more likely to remain in the profession, reducing turnover and maintaining continuity of care for the children they serve. Stable, experienced providers deliver higher-quality care, which improves outcomes for all children. This policy recognizes that supporting the child care workforce directly supports the families who depend on that workforce for care.

For these reasons, MDAEYC supports SB 664 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

*If you have any questions, please contact: Stephanie Schaefer, PhD., at [stephanie.schaefer@mdaeyc.org](mailto:stephanie.schaefer@mdaeyc.org) or 240-441-3280.*