



**Local power, collective voice
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

March 4, 2025

SUPPORT – SB0664 - Child Care Scholarship Program - Priority for Child Care Providers

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of **SB0664 - Child Care Scholarship Program - Priority for Child Care Providers** to require the Maryland State Department of Education to establish a framework to prioritize the children of individuals who provide care for children in licensed child care centers, registered family child care homes, and registered large family child care homes for scholarships under the Child Care Scholarship Program.

Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland work in low income neighborhoods to address the needs of children and families in their respective jurisdiction. We host an annual statewide childcare summit where the childcare needs of Marylanders are discussed. The issue of childcare providers making little more than minimum wage or under \$30,000 per year AND paying for childcare for their own children has come up again and again.

We have a severe shortage of childcare providers across the state. The salaries are abysmal and the work is very hard yet these professionals are educating our most precious commodity, the 0- 3 population. Offering free childcare for their own children is one small incentive that might make the difference for a childcare provider to continue in their work. Creating a policy to prioritize children of childcare workers will boost the workforce and expand access for young children.

We urge you to support SUPPORT – SB0664 - Child Care Scholarship Program - Priority for Child Care Providers to support the childcare workforce by prioritizing scholarships for their children.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Chair