

March 9, 2026

**Testimony submitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means
Regarding: Baltimore First Responders Child Care Support and Accessibility Program –
Establishment**

Submitted by:

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Chairperson and Ranking Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is Monia Vincent, and I am a Forensic Scientist with the Baltimore Police Department. I am currently a participant in the Childcare Allowance Pilot Program.

The childcare allowance would significantly help alleviate the financial stress associated with paying for care for my child while I am at work. Childcare costs average approximately \$800 per month, which represents a substantial monthly expense for my household. Assistance with these costs would provide meaningful financial relief and help ensure that I can maintain reliable and consistent care for my child.

Due to my work schedule and my child's school schedule, before and aftercare services are necessary for me to maintain consistent attendance and fulfill my professional responsibilities. Without dependable childcare, it would not be possible for me to meet the scheduling demands of my position.

In addition, before and aftercare provides the flexibility needed when my workday extends beyond scheduled hours or when I am required to attend trainings and other work-related obligations. Having reliable childcare in place allows me to remain available for these responsibilities without concern for my child's supervision.

Last month, I completed a training seminar to fulfill my required continuing education credits. The training extended my workday by approximately one hour each day. Having access to reliable before and aftercare through my child's childcare program ensured that I was able to attend and complete this training without disruption while knowing my child was in a safe and supportive environment.

I respectfully urge the committee to continue and expand the Baltimore First Responders Child Care Support and Accessibility Program.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I appreciate your work on this issue and encourage support for policies that continue the Baltimore First Responders Child Care Support and Accessibility Program.