



Councilman Mark Conway
Baltimore City Council *Fourth District*

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March 9, 2026

Re: Support for HB1245 – Baltimore First Responders Child Care Support and Accessibility Program

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1245, *Baltimore First Responders Child Care Support and Accessibility Program – Establishment*. This legislation would create a program within the Maryland State Department of Education’s Office of Child Care to support and expand an existing pilot in Baltimore City that provides monthly childcare allowances to first responders.

Baltimore’s first responders, police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and other public safety personnel, work demanding, irregular, and often unpredictable schedules. HB1245 directly addresses a longstanding barrier for these workers by helping them access reliable, high-quality childcare that aligns with the realities of public safety work. The bill’s structure, including the continuation and expansion of the Baltimore City pilot, ensures that support is targeted to the workforce that keeps our communities safe.

The bill also provides long-term stability by requiring the Governor to include \$600,000 in the annual budget beginning in FY2028 to sustain the program. This commitment ensures that Baltimore’s first responders can depend on consistent support rather than temporary or uncertain funding. [BillTrack50](#)

For Baltimore City, the benefits are clear. Reducing childcare burdens strengthens workforce retention, improves morale, and supports the recruitment of qualified first responders—an ongoing challenge for urban jurisdictions nationwide. By easing a major cost and logistical pressure on working-class families, HB1245 helps ensure that those who protect our residents can continue to do their jobs effectively and remain rooted in the communities they serve.

Supporting working families is essential to maintaining a strong and stable public safety infrastructure. HB1245 advances that goal in a practical, targeted, and fiscally responsible way.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark S Conway Jr.

Mark S. Conway, Jr.