



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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March 4, 2026

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Chair Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Wilkins and Members of the Committee,

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers its strong and favorable support for House Bill 849- Child Care Scholarship Program – Freeze in Enrollment – Exceptions. The bill requires that if the Child Care Scholarship Program stops accepting new people, certain groups cannot be left out. The House bill creates an exception to the freeze so these groups may still qualify or stay in the Child Care Scholarship Program even if enrollment is temporarily closed. **This bill is a 2026 legislative priority for the Black Caucus.**

Families receiving TANF and TCA are among the lowest-income families in Maryland, and providing access to child care is essential, as it is a requirement for work participation, job training, and compliance with program rules. The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland believes that HB 849 protects them from losing cash assistance and increasing reliance on public support.

HB 849 ensures that when a freeze occurs, it does not fall hardest on families in crisis and children with special needs, as consistent child care is critical for development, and denying assistance leads to unemployment and increased economic hardship.

For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports House Bill 849.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland