



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 711

March 9, 2021

TO: Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 711 – Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program
POSITION: Support

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 711.

SB 711 establishes the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program in the Department of Education and authorizes the Department to provide grants to local jurisdictions or child care licensing regions to increase the supply and ensure the sustainability of family child care providers in areas with above average rates of poverty and unemployment.

The Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success supports the work of the Baltimore Children's Cabinet, including its dedication to improving the early childhood development of our youngest residents. Access to high quality child care will become even more scarce as the COVID pandemic has reduced the number of operating child care providers in Baltimore City. Supporting the growth of family child care providers will be critical in addressing the shortage and ensuring that all Baltimore children are well cared for and ready for kindergarten.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 711.