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Executive Director

Dear Chair Kaiser and Vice Chair Washington,

Maryland Community Action Partnership is a non-profit multi-regional association that advocates on behalf of Community Action Agencies (CAA's) and the individuals and families they serve. Seventeen Community Action Agencies across the state serve Maryland's most vulnerable populations and ensure the voices of low-income families are heard at the local, state, and national levels.

We appreciate this opportunity to present this testimony in support of HB608 Child Care Provider Support Act.

We are writing to you because we are concerned about Childcare industry in our state because of COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for Childcare providers including an unprecedented reduction in children, and unexpected costs, including the rise in personal protective equipment (PPE). According to the Maryland Family Network, the average reported monthly losses were \$56,400 for childcare centers resulting in 60% reporting they need financial support to survive.

Fortunately, HB608 can address this problem and reduce the impact of Childcare closures due to a lack of financial support. The bill establishes a grant program in the Department of Commerce (in consultation with the State Department of Education) to provide funds to support the development and expansion of childcare programs.

Without significant support now, the Childcare industry will be not able to survive this economic crisis. Restaurants, small businesses, and families have received substantial aid to compensate for losses, but the childcare industry has received little state aid. Providing financial and other supports for childcare to offset reduced capacity will stabilize the system and allow the industry to recover and rebuild.

Thank you,

Angela Martin

Angela Martin,
Executive Director