

EARLY CHILDHOOD MATTERS!!

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Support of HB 608 Child Care Provider Support Act

To Delegate Solomon and Members of the Committee,

As an early childhood professional and a former childcare director, I deeply understand my position to ensuring that all children are cared for in a loving and stable way. Such a way that will promote a healthy development well into their adult years. As an advocate, I stand in support of HB 608. This bill would assist many childcare providers with the help they need to try and overcome the struggles and setbacks from Covid-19. Covid-19 has been challenging to various industries but especially the childcare community. "According to a recent study by the Maryland Family Network, 51% of the 8,000 childcare programs in the state say they may close if families keep children home as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall 67% of child care business owners have experienced a loss in revenue due to closures and reduced attendance. Maryland's childcare industry operates on a razor-slim margin" (Child Care Provider Support Act One Pager, 2021). I strongly believe that when we support our early childcare providers, we in turn support the development of our children. Childcare centers are the backbone to our economy, and it enables families to work in order to provide a living. As you can see, childcare is essential!

I strongly urge that the state provide additional financial assistance to our childcare community. The field of early childhood is a field that desperately needs the respect and honor that we are not shown.

"The future of any society depends on its ability to foster the healthy development of the next generation. Extensive research on the biology of stress now shows that healthy development can be derailed by excessive or prolonged activation of stress response systems in the body and the brain, with damaging effects on learning, behavior, and health across the lifespan" (Miller, 2008, p. 1). I believe every child deserves to live a life where adults are protective of their feelings/emotions, eager to nurture lasting relationships, and promote and advocate positive and secure attachments that lead to healthy developments...children are our future.

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