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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 993- Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund – Established

Budget and Taxation Committee – March 29, 2022

SUPPORT AS AMENDED

Background: House Bill 993, (HB993) would establish the Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund. This fund would provide no-interest loans to eligible child care centers for capital improvements, including the acquisition, expansion and renovation of centers. To be eligible, child care centers must participate in the Child Care Scholarship Program, with priority given to certain providers, including those located in rural, underserved, or low-income, areas or serving children under two or those with special needs. The Fund would require an annual budget appropriation for FY23 of \$15 million dollars, \$10 million for FY24 and \$5 million for FY25.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents that Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies, including the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Baltimore (JCC's). The JCC's run two early childhood centers, one of which was closed for a large part of 2020 due to the pandemic. The economic impact has been great for not only our JCC's but for several other ECC's in the Jewish community, including centers attached to our synagogues. To give a snapshot of the impact, the Owings Mills JCC in FY20 (June 19-July 20) had a revenue of \$1.9 million, whereas the projected revenue for FY21 is \$1.4 million (with the help of the Federal PPP).

Without assistance many childcare centers are not going to be able to make into the end of the pandemic, in fact 16% of childcare centers in our state had closed by January 2021 and by November 2021 751 centers had closed. When Covid-19 is eventually under control, and parents and guardians are expected to physically go back to the office, we are going to need childcare centers. This is particularly true for women and single parents who will be forced out of the workforce if there is no readily available childcare. Providing no interest loans for child care centers for capital improvements is an instrumental part of our state's focus on a post-Covid world.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report on HB993.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated: Jewish

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

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Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated



Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.