



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 89

Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program – Established

*House Ways & Means Committee
House Appropriations Committee*

February 3, 2022

Submitted by Julia Gross and Kali Schumitz, Co-Chairs

Member Agencies:

211 Maryland

Advocates for Children and Youth

Baltimore Jewish Council

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

CASH Campaign of Maryland

Catholic Charities

Energy Advocates

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Family League of Baltimore

Fuel Fund of Maryland

Health Care for the Homeless

Homeless Persons
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Job Opportunities Task Force

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,
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League of Women Voters of Maryland

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Catholic Conference

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Maryland Community Action
Partnership

Maryland Family Network

Maryland Food Bank

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Paul's Place

Public Justice Center

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore

Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

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Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly supports HB 89, which would provide financial relief for childcare providers in Maryland that are struggling or closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Grants would be able to pay for rent, payroll and other necessary expenses to ensure programs continue. Particularly important to MAP, eligibility would require that the providers accept State scholarship vouchers and prioritize grant recipients from high poverty zip codes.

Childcare providers are struggling, many have closed and many more will close before the pandemic ends. According to a June 2020 by the Maryland Family Network, 67% of childcare providers experienced a loss in revenue due to Covid-19.¹ More alarming, over 50% of providers reported that an extended closure would force them to close permanently.²

Without assistance, we are going to be in new crisis once people return to their traditional offices, a lack of childcare providers. This will be particularly burdensome to single parents/guardians and women who are already disproportionately affected by poverty. Providing financial and other supports for childcare to offset reduced enrollment and increased COVID related expenses will help all families, but especially low-income families who will have to choose between going back to the office or taking care of their children.

MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 89.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.

¹ <https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/2020%20MFN%20Caring%20During%20Covid%20%28bg%29%201.3%20Pages%5B1%5D.pdf>

² <https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/2020%20MFN%20Caring%20During%20Covid%20%28bg%29%201.3%20Pages%5B1%5D.pdf>