



**Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 993 – Child Care Capital  
Support Revolving Loan Fund  
Ways and Means & Appropriations Committees  
March 4, 2022**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work tirelessly throughout the entire Greater Washington area to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents, support our Jewish day schools, childcare centers and community centers, and campaign for important policy interests on behalf of not only the Jewish community, but for all Marylanders.

The JCRC strongly supports affordable and accessible childcare. This commitment is rooted in the Jewish mandate to champion the poor and the needy. It is also our sense of ethical responsibility to ensure that all parents and their children have the ability to maintain their economic well-being and dignity. The impact of the pandemic on our childcare system can not be underestimated. According to the Maryland Early Childhood Advisory Council, there are 855 fewer childcare providers in Maryland today than in March 2020.

House Bill 993 is one measure to help expand and strengthen our childcare system. The Bill establishes the Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to provide no-interest loans for capital expenses related to a childcare facility to childcare providers who participate in the Child Care Scholarship Program. HB 993 gives priority to providers that are located in rural communities, underserved or high poverty rate communities, and areas that lack childcare slots. This Fund is critical as it allows for childcare facilities to make capital improvements – including expansion, renovation and new construction – to enlarge their physical space, which will enable more families to access the benefits of much needed childcare.

The JCRC is committed to investing in childcare infrastructure as a means to boost the economy and help the most vulnerable Marylanders. In an effort to make childcare available and affordable to everyone who needs it, we ask the committees for a favorable report on HB 993.