



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

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**Testimony in Support of HB 993**  
**“Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund - Established”**  
**Submitted to the House Ways and Means Committee**  
**March 4, 2022**

**Support**

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) supports HB 993, which would create a revolving loan fund for child care providers for capital expenses to acquire, build, expand, or renovate a child care facility.

MDAEYC is a professional association of 1,900 early childhood educators, allied professionals, and families. We value educational equity, and strive to ensure all children from birth to age 8 have access to high quality early childhood education.

As educators, we know the importance of a safe, appropriate facility for providing child care and early childhood education. Child care licensing standards rightly place requirements on programs that help ensure health and safety, with many building specifications that mean that a typical commercial space available for rent is not necessarily ready to serve as a child care center without additional capital investments to configure it to meet licensing standards. Further, we also know the tremendous value that the right facility with the right features can provide to help support a quality early education program. Educators know that, as the saying goes, “the environment is the third teacher,” because the configuration of the facility and classroom can support or undermine a supportive learning environment.

HB 993 would provide no-interest loans to child care programs, and the loan program would be targeted to providers serving children and families with the greatest needs: children in families receiving child care scholarship program funding; children under age 2, children with special needs; and in communities lacking a supply of quality child care. This targeting will help our State improve educational equity for our youngest learners by providing them with safe, supportive program facilities. We urge your support of this legislation.

*If you have any questions, please contact: Stephanie Schaefer, Program Coordinator, at [stephanie.schaefer@mdaeyc.org](mailto:stephanie.schaefer@mdaeyc.org) or 240-441-3280.*