



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE PAM QUEEN
HB 89 – Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion
Grant Program – Established
SUPPORT

Greetings Chair Vanessa Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Alonzo Washington, members of the Ways and Means and Appropriations Committees:

In Maryland, 79% of children under 12 years old have a parent in the workforce. Due to COVID-19 with families keeping children at home, upwards of 51% of child care programs were in danger of closing. According to a Maryland Family Network survey, 67% of child care business owners reported losses between \$1,000 to \$5,000 per week due to reduced attendance.

HB 89 will provide needed support to child care professionals to enable these business owners to remain open, reopen, or expand. This bill allows for two grants: (1) a child care stabilization grant of between \$1,000 to \$35,000 to keep child care facilities open; and (2) a child care expansion grant of between \$3,000 to \$50,000 to enable child care facilities to expand.

This bill will seek to get Maryland working families back to work and stabilize the childcare industry in Maryland. You will hear from supporters who need immediate assistance that this bill provides.

I seek a favorable recommendation for HB 89.