



Testimony Concerning HB 993 – Child Care Capital Support

Revolving Loan Fund - Established

Submitted to House Ways and Means

March 4, 2022

Position: Support

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit organization advocating on behalf of 4,440 registered family child care providers plus an additional 145 registered large family child care homes. According to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in 2019, there were 6057 family child care programs open and operating in the state of Maryland. As of January 2022, that number decreased to 4,440, a loss of 1,617 programs. This translates to a loss of 12,936 child care slots for Maryland working families. This decline in registered family child care programs compounds an already existing problem for families that are looking for quality child care, especially those with infants and toddlers.

HB 993 will assist family child care programs with the cost of expanding their existing programs, including Large Family Child Care Homes (12) and 4-infant homes. Oftentimes, the hefty cost for expanding to a Large Family Child Care Home and/or 4-infant home is a deterrent for child care providers already struggling. The providers in counties that allow large family/4-infant homes will benefit from HB 993 to help them cover the cost of expanding their programs to a capacity of 12. A family child care provider who wishes to expand to a large family child care home can add 4 more children and a 4-Infant home can add 2 additional spaces for infants. This increases access to

care for working families in Maryland. These larger programs can also expand their staff which provides employment opportunities and aids in Maryland's economic recovery.

MSFCCA supports and respectfully asks for a favorable vote on HB 993, the Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund. This legislation will help children, families and communities in Maryland. If you have any questions please contact Rebecca Hancock, MSFCCA Vice President of Public Policy at (301) 934-4445 or kaysplayhousechildcare@gmail.com.