

February 21, 2023

**Testimony Concerning SB 873:
“Child Care Provider Stabilization Program – Established”**

Submitted to the Senate Committee on Education, Energy and Environment

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Child care providers are in crisis, and so are families, and Prince George’s County is no exception. I am no exception.

SB 873 calls for monthly payments to licensed child care providers who are willing and able to enroll children who receive a subsidy through the Child Care Scholarship Program (CCSP). I urge your support for this legislation.

Through this bill, I could receive as much as \$2,500 per month to be used for cleaning and food supplies, early childhood educator wages, and the ongoing expenses of running my program and being available to the families counting on me so that they can go to work. I thank Senator Washington for leading this bill and for seeing what it takes to do this every day.

- We are a licensed program in compliance with the Office of Child Care Regulations
- Presently we have families with scholarships enrolled in our program and we encourage all our parents to apply for the childcare scholarship.
- The capacity of our program is 117 and we presently have 68 enrolled.

In Prince George’s County, area child care providers like me are experiencing deep challenges with funding/finances, staffing and enrollment which are all totally intertwined. The stabilization funds offered in 2021 and 2022 were an important step. There is more to be done.

An additional \$2500 per month in stabilization grant funding would make it possible for us to continue to provide quality childcare for our families, keep adequate supplies, pay for field trips for our children and an appreciation bonus for our staff.

We need help rebuilding our businesses and keeping our quality, relationship-based practices strong, so we can be there for working parents and for young children. The quality of child care, and the experience of the birth-to-five years, are crucial to school readiness and supporting working families.

We must continue to take steps to stabilize the child care sector and the well-being of people who work in child care, and we must also rebuild child care better than before.

The child care crisis is not over in Maryland. Thank you for your leadership and your support for child care through recent General Assembly sessions. There’s more to do and we can do it together. Thank you for supporting SB 873.