



March 27, 2023

Subject: Support for HB 495/SB 350; Early Childhood Development - Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations

Dear Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF) and the entire Nonprofit Montgomery organization, we write in support of HB 495/SB 350; Early Childhood Development - Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations.

SB 350 passed the Senate by a vote of 46 – 0. If this bill becomes law, Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program eligibility levels, co-payments, and reimbursement rates are more likely to stay the same, even after ARPA dollars expire. Maryland families need and deserve access to a robust CCS.

We are grateful for the leadership and diligent work of this committee on the issue of early care and education (ECE). Your recognition of ECE as the cornerstone of our economy and essential to nurturing a capable workforce of tomorrow while investing in the workforce of today is commendable. We urge you to vote favorably on HB 495/SB 350.

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Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF) is a collective impact initiative of [Nonprofit Montgomery](https://www.nonprofitmoco.org/). We work with partners across sectors to effect systems-wide change on issues affecting all county residents. MMF convenes the [Early Care and Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition](https://www.nonprofitmoco.org/early-care-and-education-workforce-advocacy-coalition/). The Coalition is a regional public-private coalition of 50+ early care and education leaders and advocates from the business, education, public, philanthropic, and nonprofit sectors that work collaboratively with state elected partners to reduce barriers to quality child care and education and create equitable processes, practices, and pathways for children, their caregivers, and the child care workforce across the state of Maryland.

We are eager to continue to work in partnership with your committee to ensure the full recovery, resilience, and sustainability of the early care and education sector across our state. We fully support HB 495/SB350 and the stability it will provide to child care providers and families around the state. Please vote in support of HB 495/SB 350 and preserve the Child Care Scholarship Program for Maryland families and children.

Sincerely,

Lavontte Chatmon
Executive Director, Nonprofit Montgomery