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**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

March 7, 2024

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building, Room 131  
6 Bladen St  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary,

On behalf of the majority of the Women Legislators of Maryland members, we are writing to support **HB1261 Commission on Access to High-Quality Early Childhood Education and Child Care for Children Three Years Old and Younger.**

This bill establishes the Commission on Access to High-Quality Early Childhood Education and Child Care for Children Three Years Old and Younger to study implementing universal access to high-quality early childhood education and child care for children 3 years old and younger and requiring the Commission, on or before October 1, 2025, to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. This legislation ensures the study of how to improve early childhood education and care, specifically geared toward children 3 years and younger. This legislation would also bring childcare to areas that are underserved as well as determine the feasibility of limiting the cost of childcare to 8% of a family's income, putting less strain on finances as well as making childcare more accessible. The Women Legislators of Maryland fully support the education and adequate care of children, as well as the access to adequate childcare and, therefore, offer full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson  
President