



Senate Bill 480 -- *Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established*
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 16, 2022
Support

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports Senate Bill 480 – *Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program – Established*.

Senate Bill 480 establishes the Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and the Child Care Expansion Grant Program in the State Department of Education. The bill states that the purpose of the Child Care Expansion Grant Program to increase access and availability of licensed child care providers in the state by providing financial assistance to new or existing child care providers. The Child Care Stabilization Grant Program's stated purpose in the bill is to provide financial support to licensed child care providers in the state that are in danger of closing in the next 12 months due to financial hardship.

MCCC has identified the issue of child care access and affordability as an economic imperative that needs to be addressed to help Maryland employers and employees succeed. There are significant economic costs to unreliable and unaffordable child care in Maryland.

MCCC contends that increasing affordable and quality child care was critical prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and is now even more important. As Maryland seeks to open up more following the Omicron variant and get more people back to work, child care challenges present a growing threat to the Maryland's economy. The rapid workplace changes brought about by the pandemic have created new challenges in attracting and retaining employees. Now more than ever, the availability of quality and affordable child care is an important determinate to the success of the workforce.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports Senate Bill 480 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

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