

**Maryland General Assembly
Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
2018 Interim Membership Roster**

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THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

December 14, 2018

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Co-chair
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Co-chair
Members of the Legislative Policy Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families respectfully submits the following summary of its 2018 interim activities.

The joint committee met once during the interim to consider various issues related to child care for families in the State, including parental leave for State employees, tax credits for child care, the Child Care Subsidy Program, and the availability and cost of child care.

The joint committee's meeting on October 17, 2018, commenced with a presentation from the Department of Budget and Management on the implementation of a parental leave policy for State employees of the Executive Branch, as required by Chapter 752 of 2018. Although Chapter 752 did not require the Legislative or Judicial branches to provide parental leave, representatives from the Department of Legislative Services and the Judiciary informed the joint committee that such leave will be offered to employees of those branches, and summarized the applicable policies.

The joint committee also heard a summary of numerous aspects of child care in the State from the Maryland Family Network. Information presented included data on how many children in the State were in various types of child care settings, the average weekly cost of child care, and how child care costs compared to other major household expenses. The joint committee also heard about barriers to finding adequate child care, such as cost and location.

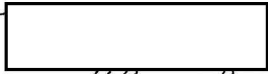
Next, the National Women's Law Center provided an overview of how child care tax credits work to benefit families. The presentation included information on best practices for child care tax policies, such as making the credits refundable, and provided both a summary and detailed examples of relevant tax provisions as adopted in other states.

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Page 2

Finally, the Maryland State Department of Education provided the joint committee with an update on the State's Child Care Subsidy Program. Since the joint committee last examined the program in the 2017 interim, several notable changes have occurred, including (1) the enactment of Chapters 563 and 564 of 2018, which will increase provider reimbursement rates to a minimum of the sixtieth percentile by fiscal 2022; (2) the adoption of regulations to expand income eligibility from 32% to 65% of the State Median Income; (3) increased federal funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant; and (4) the elimination of the waitlist for program services.

The Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families wishes to thank those individuals who contributed their time and expertise during the 2018 interim to inform and advise the committee's work.

Sincerely,



Senator Nancy J. King
Senate Chair



Delegate Ariana Kelly
House Chair

NJK:AK/JKB:HED/km

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
Ms. Victoria L. Gruber
Mr. Ryan Bishop