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**Testimony Concerning HB 547– Education – Head Start Program –
Annual Appropriation**

Submitted to House Appropriations Committee

February 8, 2018

Position: Support

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of approximately 6000 registered family child care providers and the children of Maryland. MSFCCA supports HB 547 for the many low-income families in Maryland who are eligible for the comprehensive early childhood services Head Start that can help prepare children to succeed in school and in life.

The State of Maryland’s annual Head Start supplemental funding, which enables Head Start programs to expand their programs’ services to full-day and full-year, would be increased from \$1.8 million to \$3 million. This increase would restore funds that were cut in a 2009 budget reduction and have been unavailable in all subsequent years. The restoration of these funds could potentially extend services to more than 2,100 children in Maryland, many of whom would not otherwise receive for full-day and full-year services. Your support of this bill could make a significant difference in the lives of these Maryland families.

MSFCCA respectfully urges a favorable report for HB 547.