



Testimony

House Appropriations Committee  
Elementary and Secondary Subcommittee Committee

January 29, 2024

[HB408](#)

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**Child Care Subsidy Program vendors; basis for periodic reimbursement.**

I'm Maria Posey from the League of Women Voters. We oppose House Bill 408 as written as it endangers the financial stability of child care providers by altering reimbursement methods based on child absences. While we fully support the establishment of an enrollment-based payment system, we do not support this system to revert back to attendance-based in the event a child is absent more than 10 days in a month. Any payment tied to attendance penalizes providers for circumstances beyond their control, such as a child's illness or family emergencies, potentially leading to significant financial losses. This is why we see many providers opting not to participate in the child care subsidy program.

Without a guaranteed source of income per slot irrespective of a child's attendance, providers will continue struggling to sustain their operations and will be incentivized to expel students who are absent for 10 days rather than risk that their reimbursements for the slot are cut back in case there are further absences. In this event, it is the child who suffers due to circumstances outside their control. This bill undermines efforts to sustain a robust, accessible child care system for all children. We recommend that it be revised to remove the clause about reverting back based on absences.

[HB627](#)

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**Early childhood care; Child Care Subsidy Program expansion, provision of free child care.**

I am Maria Posey from the League of Women Voters. We strongly support House Bill 627 for its innovative approach to addressing the child care workforce shortage. By providing free child care to eligible child care provider employees, this bill not only supports our dedicated child care workforce but also enhances the quality of care offered to Virginia's children.

This legislation improves the recruitment and retention of child care educators. By offering free child care as a benefit of employment in this sector, the bill will encourage retention and attract new talent to the child care sector.