



SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

HB185: Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program – Funding – Alterations

March 19, 2025

Position: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program is vitally important to 250 children with significant medical and healthcare needs in Maryland and their parents. The program consists of 7 providers of this service throughout the state of Maryland. Without these childcare services, more than 300 parents would not be able to continue to work and provide for their families. Unfortunately, **The Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program funding short in the FY26 proposed budget by 2.2 million**. The program had been level-funded for several years at 3.7 million and was expected to be funded at this level for FY26.

The Arc Montgomery County and The Arc Prince George's County both provide therapeutic child care through this important program. If the funding is not restored, it will hurt our programs and make them unsustainable to support children and their parents.

We request an amendment to align the house bill with the Senate Bill (359) AND request the dates of the program also be amended to reflect the intention of a funding appropriation in FY26 at 3.7 million:

On page 2, lines 26–28, change the start year from 2027 to 2026, and amend appropriation to \$3,700,000:

Line 26 EACH OF FISCAL YEARS ~~2027~~ **2026** THROUGH 2029, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of ~~1,500,000~~ **\$3,700,000** to the Program.

Background: This long-standing program has been around for many years but was sunset in FY25. The intention of HB185/SB359 was to continue this important therapeutic child care service for children with specific healthcare needs.

The program will not survive this severe cut in FY26. Most of the programs' expenses rely on numbers of children served and a balance with professional nursing caregiver time.

The programs cannot, for example, hire one half of a nurse when a nurse must be present for every hour a child, with a complex medical need, is present in the program.

The costs are constant and a cut to funding would significantly impact the sustainability of the program. We ask for the committee's Favorable Report on HB185 with amendments, to ensure the viability of the Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program and for continuity of critical services for the youth and families served through TCC.

For more information, please contact:

Ande Kolp, Executive Director, The Arc Maryland akolp@thearcmd.org