



# Grannie Annie's

Cozy Care, Quality Education.

March 3, 2020

Delegate Kaiser, Delegate Washington, and the esteemed members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 1386 with amendments.

I own a child care center in Pasadena in Anne Arundel County. We provide care and education for 63 children and employ 14 people. We have been in business almost 17 years. We are lucky to have full enrollment and full staff right now. But our situation feels very fragile. At any moment, if someone decides to leave, I will be faced with hiring someone during an industry-wide, state-wide workforce shortage.

In my position as Anne Arundel County Chapter President of the Maryland State Child Care Association, I have relationships with many child care owners and directors through out our county and I see they are not all so lucky as us. They are struggling to find teachers, even unqualified ones, which is limiting the availability of quality child care for Anne Arundel families.

Within our community, we have to compete with not only corporate child care centers, but also industry (Amazon, Under Armor, Best Buy) that all pay comparable rates and can afford better benefits than we can, as a small business. So when we find someone that **wants** to work in child care, we **want** to hire them.

HB 1386 would allow us to hire someone as a teacher who has a college degree and will, in the near future, complete the 90 hours needed to qualify them under current regulations. MSDE allows K-12 teachers to be hired and qualified as a teacher with a degree in any field, as long as they complete certification within 2 years. We are asking for a similar opportunity.

I respectfully request that you vote in favor of HB 1386.

Sincerely,

Ruthi Claytor  
Owner / Director

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