

ERIC LUEDTKE
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Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER

Ways and Means Committee
Chair, Revenues Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 22, 2022

SPONSOR TESTIMONY

House Bill 725- Children - Therapeutic Child Care Program - Funding

Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I believe every child in Maryland has a basic right to receive the support needed to foster their growth. Therapeutic child care programs provide support to our particular populations of Maryland youth who face significant challenges through specialized child care. These programs provide channels of intensive individualized support for children under the age of six years old with severe trauma, behavioral health challenges, and developmental delays. And they have an extraordinary success rate, transitioning more than 80% of participating children to a typical kindergarten environment.

HB 725 is intended to create a permanent funding stream for therapeutic child care programs across the state. By providing a secure funding stream, we can ensure that Maryland children who need this kind of specialized care are able to get it. I urge the committee to issue a favorable report, and ensure all children in Maryland have access to high quality child care, regardless of their needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Luedtke".

Delegate Eric Luedtke