



**Caring For Maryland's Most
Important Natural Resource™**

Maryland State Child Care Association

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The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is a non-profit, statewide, professional association incorporated in 1984 to promote the growth and development of child care and learning centers in Maryland. MSCCA has over 5000 members working in the field of early childhood/child care. We believe children are our most important natural resources and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

March 23, 2022

House Bill 513

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

SUPPORT

To Chair Pinsky and esteemed members of EHEA Committee:

MSCCA enthusiastically supports HB 513 for the purpose of establishing the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program within the State Department of Education's Division of Early Childhood Development to promote positive mental and behavioral health practices for young children by providing certain referrals and services for children, families, teachers, and all types of child care providers.

MSCCA has been a part of the Infant and Early Childhood Framework Committee and focused on the need for this important consultation program to address the increase of mental health issues, especially related to pandemic. Child care programs and providers are in need of this foundational program as it adds security and stability for mental health consultation and education. The approach is proactive to include best practice to promote positive mental health as well as ensure better support for young children and their families struggling to identify strategies and interventions.

We support the foundational funding and the training, coaching necessary for teacher and caregivers. HB 315 places emphasis on coordination and partnership for resources to help the child and the partners be successful for children and families in addressing mental health issues.

MSCCA urges a favorable report.

Christina Peusch
Executive Director