



Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: House Bill 0725 Children – Therapeutic Child Care Program – Funding

Position: Support

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state.

Decades of research supports the importance of learning experiences, interventions, and supports during early development because the developing brain is most capable of change. As a result, early intervention services serve a vital role in the prevention and mitigation of future challenges experienced by children who have or are at risk for developmental delays. Such services positively impact outcomes across developmental domains including health, language and communication, cognitive development, and social-emotional development.

Because of such research demonstrating the vital importance of early intervention, we urge passage of House Bill 0725 Children – Therapeutic Child Care Program – Funding. Consistently funded early intervention programs for children with developmental delays provide valuable interventions, supports, and early learning experiences that facilitate vulnerable children's development across developmental areas.

Thank you very much for your consideration. If we can provide additional information or be of any assistance, please contact us at legislative@mSPAonline.org or Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net or (443) 350-1325.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Leposa PHD NCSP
Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association