



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

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

Ways and Means Committee

February 24, 2022

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **House Bill 725 - Children - Therapeutic Child Care Program - Funding**. I would like to thank Delegate Luedtke for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

Therapeutic childcare is a critical service that many families rely upon when they have nowhere else to turn. The instruction and care within these programs provide early intervention for youth with developmental delays and have an overwhelming success rate of transitioning students to a typical kindergarten classroom.

House Bill 725 creates the Therapeutic Child Care Program with a mission of providing specialized care to children under six who have developmental delays or physical disabilities. While the benefits of such a program are undeniable, funding has been inconsistent. House Bill 725 outlines the State investment necessary to ensure all children facing these challenges have the resources they need.

For the reasons stated above, and the future of our children, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for House Bill 725. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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