



Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School

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Testimony Concerning HB 206

Early Childhood Education – Prekindergarten Programs - Montessori Schools and Programs
Submitted to Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Senator Brian Feldman, Chair

March 16, 2023

Position: Support

I strongly support HB 206, which seeks to change the eligibility requirements for the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program and publicly funded prekindergarten programs to include Montessori schools and programs. This bill will allow public Montessori programs and MSDE-approved Montessori schools and programs to participate in the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program while at the same time aligning the group requirements and staff requirements with existing COMAR 13A.6 regulations which are currently in place.

I strongly believe that all children should have equal access to high-quality educational opportunities. Montessori schools have a proven record of delivering successful educational outcomes. Including Montessori schools in the state's funding of prekindergarten programs provides families with a broader range of educational options and opportunities, which will help ensure all children have the foundation they need to succeed in school and beyond.

The proposed amendments to the eligibility requirements ensure that funding will be provided equitably to Montessori schools and programs that meet the same standards as other prekindergarten programs that receive the same funding without altering the unique quality markers of Montessori classrooms.

I urge a positive report on HB 206. Thank you for your consideration.

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