
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

February 28, 2024

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Appropriations Committee
121 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 1381 – Education – Publicly Funded Prekindergarten – Payments to Private Providers and Building Use

Dear Chairman Barnes,

I would like to thank you and the Committee members for the opportunity to express my support for House Bill 1381.

As you are aware, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future requires the expansion of prekindergarten at no cost to low-income families.

This bill includes privately funded prekindergarten in the State share, which will allow these providers to serve more students. Expanding private sector participation will also relieve some of the funding pressure on county governments as we work to meet the Blueprint mandate.

HB 1381 also provides much-needed flexibility on prekindergarten classroom space. It will allow for existing public space to be used efficiently by both public and private providers, reducing the need for land acquisition and new construction, thereby saving taxpayer dollars.

Therefore, on behalf of the citizens of Harford County, I support HB 1381, and I urge the committee to issue a favorable report.

Yours truly,

Robert G. Cassilly

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410.638.3350 | 410.879.2000 | 220 South Main Street, Bel Air, Maryland 21014 | www.harfordcountymd.gov