



**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 child care/early childhood education. We believe children are our most important natural resource and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

Testimony: SB 1102 Education – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Alterations Submitted to: Education, Energy and Environment Committee February 23, 2024

Maryland State Child Care Association supports SB 1102, with amendment.

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, Pillar 1 expansion of mixed Prekindergarten for all four-year-olds and eligible three-year-olds is an important foundation for our youngest citizens. The importance of mixed delivery is critical and necessary for success. The early childhood community-based programs, who already provide full day education and care for children are essential to Maryland’s working families, to preparing children for kindergarten, and drive the economy.

The child care providers and nonpublic nursery school readiness data is strong showing high levels of readiness over many years. The AIB, based on the December 2023 report/recommendations, speaks to the critical need for alternative pathways for community-based providers to be a part of the mixed delivery system. Many other states also have created and supported alternative pathways, equivalencies for college credit and proven competencies.

MSCCA offers the following amendment:

Page 7 line 19-22-Provide in each classroom at least one teacher certified in early 20 childhood education by the State OR ONE TEACHER WITH A BACHELOR’S DEGREE

ADD or equivalency based on alternative pathways approved by Maryland State Department of Education for Prekindergarten teachers.

WHO 21 PLANS TO PURSUE A STATE CERTIFICATION FOR TEACHING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD 22 EDUCATION and at least one teacher’s aide who has at least a high school degree;

MSCCA asks for a favorable report with amendment.