



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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February 16, 2024

Delegate Deni Taveras
Low House Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: HB 395/PG504-24 – Prince George’s County – Early Childhood Education Program and High School Child Care Centers; and
HB 963/SB 719 – Criminal Law – Sexual Solicitation of a minor, Human Trafficking, and Drug Distribution – Sensitive Location**

Dear Delegate Taveras:

I appreciate the intention behind the proposed HB 395/PG 504-24, however, I am writing to share my perspective and express my reservation regarding the proposed legislation, which mandates that each Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) high school with a pregnancy rate of greater than 1% establish a childcare center and offer a career and technical (CTE) program in early childhood education. PGCPS currently offers the Early Childhood Education (ECE) CTE in six (6) high schools which have been approved by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). If the criterion for offering this program is 1% pregnancy rate as proposed by HB 395, PGCPS could possibly need to change the sites offering the ECE program annually which would significantly impact the students currently enrolled in the program and would have significant fiscal and operational impact for PGCPS. Additionally, to receive MSDE approvals for new sites, PGCPS would need to meet the Demand, Wage, and Skills criteria and it is unlikely that MSDE would approve the addition of multiple new sites given the number PGCPS currently offers.

Simultaneously, I want to emphasize my wholehearted support for HB 963/SB 719 which prohibits a person from committing sexual solicitation of a minor, human trafficking, and drug distribution within five (5) miles from a public school. These crimes require urgent attention and comprehensive measures to protect our students. It is crucial that we prioritize addressing immediate concerns related to sexual offenses and drug offenses to ensure that our schools are safe spaces for all our students.

I appreciate that you have made the safety of our students a priority and have given it the attention it deserves.

Sincerely,

Millard House, II
Superintendent