



**Testimony Concerning HB 1455**  
**“Public Prekindergarten and Child Care Providers – Waiver**  
**Action Plan and Assistance Hubs”**  
**Submitted to the House Ways & Means Committee**  
**March 6, 2024**

**Position: Support**

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports HB 1455, which would put structures in place to support the participation of community-based child care providers in the delivery of public pre-kindergarten under the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and early childhood education as well as other supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on child care policy and are strongly committed to ensuring that children, along with their parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.

The Accountability and Implementation Board’s December 2023 report *“Alternative Quality Requirements and Structural Elements for Private Prekindergarten Providers to Participate in Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Programs”* explored barriers private pre-kindergarten providers face when trying to participate in publicly funded pre-kindergarten. Many relate to the workforce. Others are structural. HB 1455 seeks to put in place additional solutions to facilitate coordination and collaboration between key early childhood stakeholders.

Maryland benefits from an array of early-childhood-focused organizations that provide supportive infrastructure. The State’s network of Child Care Resource Centers, for example, could be expanded to accomplish a number of the goals the bill seeks to achieve. To do so effectively, additional resources may be required.

MFN respectfully urges favorable consideration of HB 1455.

