



To Whom It May Concern—

I would like to share my support for HB 1441—Early Childhood Education—Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Programs-Alterations. I represent a small preschool program in Howard County, Maryland. Our program is dedicated to providing high-quality early childhood education to families in Maryland; however, we have been unable to participate in current prekindergarten expansion programs due to barriers in staff qualifications.

HB 1441 establishes necessary pathways to allow our already experienced and qualified staff to receive teacher’s certification and continue in their roles as preschool educators. In order for the *Blueprint for Maryland’s Future* to succeed, amendments like this must be passed to utilize and incentivize our existing workforce. HB 1441 also provides a foundation for experienced and seasoned staff to demonstrate competency based on their time already spent in the field.

HB 1441 also works toward creating systems that will allow the public school systems and private programs participating in publicly funded prekindergarten to work together to disseminate enrollment information to interested families. These pathways will create a framework around which counties can build a robust public prekindergarten program that champions a mixed-delivery system.

This bill and the alternations that it outlines will be tremendously beneficial to the field of early childhood education and the child care community. We encourage our legislators to vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you,

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