



Maryland Association for the
Education of Young Children

Testimony in Support of HB 1455
“Public Prekindergarten and Child Care Providers - Waiver Action Plan and
Assistance Hubs”
Submitted to the House Ways and Means
March 4, 2024

Position: Support with Amendment

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to provide written testimony in support of the proposed bill, AN ACT concerning Public Prekindergarten and Child Care Providers – Waiver Action Plan and Assistance Hubs, with an amendment to include the Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC).

As an association dedicated to the advancement of early childhood education in Maryland, we understand the critical importance of ensuring equitable access to high-quality prekindergarten and child care services for all children across our state. We firmly believe in fostering equity and collaboration within our education system to better serve the needs of our youngest learners.

The Maryland Blueprint for Education outlines a vision for equitable access to high-quality education for all children, regardless of their background or circumstances. This bill, with the inclusion of MDAEYC, serves as a critical component in realizing this vision. By establishing assistance hubs and action plans, we ensure that child care providers receive the necessary support and resources to deliver high-quality care and education to our children.

MDAEYC, as an affiliate of the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#) (NAEYC), embodies the principles of professionalism, excellence, and advocacy in early childhood education. Through our involvement, we can leverage national best practices and standards to enhance the quality of prekindergarten and child care services across Maryland.

Moreover, this bill promotes collaboration and partnership among stakeholders, fostering a cohesive and integrated approach to early childhood education. By bridging the gap between public and community-based prekindergarten programs, we offer families diverse options while maintaining the integrity of the early childhood education workforce.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support this bill and its amendment, as it embodies the spirit and intent of the Maryland Blueprint for Education. By doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to providing every child in Maryland with the foundation they need to thrive and succeed.

Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Christina Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christina Lopez

President

Maryland Association of the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC)

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