

Good morning chair and vice chair,

My name is Molly McGriff. I have worked in the early childhood field for 14 years. I am here today representing myself, not my employer.

Blueprint PreK is a tremendous opportunity for Maryland's children. The best part of Blueprint PreK is that it was designed as a mixed delivery system. Mixed delivery means that families will have the option to choose a school-based setting for their children or choose a community program for the same PreK education. Diversity in the delivery of early childhood education is absolutely necessary. Different families have different needs and wants. A public classroom is not the best fit for every child.

Mixed delivery also strengthens the private childcare sector. Because if all 3 and 4 year-olds leave private childcare to attend PreK in a public-school setting, childcare centers will crumble. Leaving an even bigger shortage of infant and toddler care. Instead, community programs have the opportunity to serve 3 and 4 year-olds at no, or low-cost, to parents. A win-win for providers and families.

Building mixed delivery into Blueprint was smart. But we know that we're behind on getting community programs to participate.

HB 1441 is an important piece of legislation because it addresses several barriers to mixed delivery. It gives teachers more ways to meet qualifications, including recognizing existing experience of those working in early childhood education, without sacrificing high standards.

I ask that you support the passing of HB 1441 with one **requested amendment: change "goal of 50%" language to "a required 50%" for mixed delivery.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.