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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 19, 2025

To: Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our unanimous support for SB0462: State Board of Education - Membership - Early Childhood Development Professional. This critical legislation takes an essential step toward ensuring that early childhood development professionals have a voice on the Maryland State Board of Education (MSDE), recognizing the vital role they play in shaping the future of Maryland's children.

As you are aware, the vast majority of child care providers are women, and their expertise and firsthand experience are crucial in shaping policies that impact early childhood education. SB0462 ensures that these professionals—who are responsible for nurturing and educating Maryland's youngest learners—have a seat at the table when decisions are made about the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, particularly its Universal Pre-K pillar. Their perspective is currently missing, and their inclusion will provide essential insight into the role that family and community-based child care plays in preparing children for success.

By adding a child care/early childhood development professional to the MSDE Board, this bill acknowledges the importance of early education and the women who lead this field. It is a proactive and necessary measure to ensure that Maryland's educational policies reflect the realities and challenges faced by child care providers, families, and young children.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus strongly urges the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to issue a favorable report for SB0462. By passing this legislation, Maryland will take a meaningful step toward supporting early childhood educators—predominantly women—and strengthening the foundation of our state's education system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your commitment to improving the lives of Marylanders.