



February 19, 2025

**Education, Energy and Environment Committee
Maryland State Senate
Annapolis, MD 21401**

Re: Testimony concerning support for:

**[HB524/SB462](#) (Delegate Guzzone/Senator Mary Washington)-
State Board of Education - Membership - Early Childhood Development Professional**

To whom it may concern,

My name is Anabela Rodas. I am a resident of Montgomery County and President of the Latino Child Care Association of Maryland, Inc. (LCAM). LCAM is a nonprofit organization representing hundreds of Spanish-speaking family child care providers and early childhood educators in the state. I am providing written testimony on behalf of our organization.

The Latino Child Care Association of Maryland is in favor of Senate Bill 462 and House Bill 524, which would both increase the membership of the State Board of Education from 13 to 14 members to include, as a member, an early childhood development professional with extensive experience in the operations of a child care business and early childhood curriculum and development; and requiring the Governor to appoint the early childhood development member, with the advice and consent of the Senate, from a list of three qualified individuals.

Maryland must fully integrate our early childhood community across sectors by allowing representation on the Board of Education. Adding a seat for an early childhood development professional will bring inclusion, amplify the voices of those in the field, and bring real stories from those families and educators who experience the system daily.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Sincerely,

**Anabela Rodas
President,
Latino Child Care Association of Maryland, Inc. (LCAM)
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