



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Testimony in Support of SB 462

Submitted to the Honorable Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) supports SB 0462- State Board of Education-Membership-Early Childhood Development Professional

February 18, 2025

MDAEYC is a professional association of 1,700 early childhood educators, allied professionals, and families. We promote high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood education practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

As a current member of the MDAEYC Public Policy Committee and former childcare Director/Owner for 50 years I would like to express the strong support of the members of our Association. These are our key points:

Enhanced Expertise: Including an early childhood development professional from the Child Care community of educators ensures that the unique needs and perspectives from the field are represented. This expertise is crucial for informed decision-making that impacts our youngest learners, especially for 0-4 years.

Holistic Education Approach: By having a dedicated professional on the Board, we can better integrate early childhood education policies with K-12 education, creating a seamless and supportive educational journey for all children.

Improved Child Care Standards: An early childhood development professional brings valuable insights into child care operations and curriculum development, leading to higher standards and better outcomes in early childhood programs across the state.

Representation of Diverse Needs: This ensures the Board reflects the diverse needs of Maryland's population, including those of young children and their families. This inclusive approach promotes equity and addresses the unique challenges faced by different communities.

For these reasons, MDAEYC respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 462.

If you have any questions, please contact: Stephanie Schaefer, PhD. Program Coordinator, at stephanie.schaefer@mdaeyc.org or 240-441-3280 or Flora Gee, flora.gee@mdaeyc.org or 240-375-0208.