

02/21/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0462 – FAVORABLE

State Board of Education - Membership - Early Childhood Development Professional

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0462, State Board of Education - Membership - Early Childhood Development Professional

Purdue University has documented the need for early childhood development professionals: ¹

At a basic level, early childhood professionals are important because many parents work. Parents need the support of [early childhood professionals](#) to provide quality care and promote the intellectual and emotional development of their children. Most importantly, there is [considerable evidence](#) that early education, typically from birth to age 5, can promote long-term health and longevity. Positive early experiences provide children with a foundation for brain development and build a range of learning and other skills throughout life.

This is why early childhood professionals are critical to the entire child development process—they can help set the stage to [combat developmental obstacles](#) such as poverty, health issues, and other adversity.

The Blueprint for Education includes a Pre-K component yet the person who might have the depth of knowledge to assist the State Board of Education on policies around early childhood education does not have a voice on that board.

This bill will 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. The selection of that qualified individual will occur through 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 submitted from the Office of Child Care Advisory Council.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass SB0462.

¹ <https://www.purdueglobal.edu/blog/education/early-childhood-professionals/#:~:text=Parents%20need%20the%20support%20of,long%2Dterm%20health%20and%20longevity.>