



February 12, 2025

Testimony Regarding House Bill 524 – State Board of Education – Membership – Early Childhood Development Professional

The Montgomery County [Children's Opportunity Alliance](https://mocochildren.org) is a locally legislated Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity that brings community together to create a more equitable, accessible, high-quality, and sustainable early childhood system that narrows disparities and puts young children on a path to reach their greatest potential.

We urge you to support HB524 – Early Childhood Development Professional Membership on the State Board of Education. By increasing the Board from 13 to 14 members, this bill would allow for a new seat to be dedicated to an early childhood development professional with extensive experience in the operations of a child care business and early childhood curriculum and development.

All child care in Maryland is regulated by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), yet child care has no representation on its Board of Education, which sets the educational policy, passes regulations, and is empowered to interpret the true meaning and intent of the laws that govern them. The child care industry is in a crisis and leaders from the child care community deserve to have a voice in the decisions that impact their viability, quality, and sustainability. It is critical that child care leaders have a seat at the table to realize a more just and equitable early childhood system.

Submitted on behalf of the Children's Opportunity Alliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Jahromi".

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