

# **SB637\_The Arc Maryland\_ Support\_ Ande Kolp**

Uploaded by: Kolp, Ande

Position: FAV

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
*SB 637: Children - Therapeutic Nursery Program - Funding*  
February 19, 2020  
**Support**

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to the rights and quality of life of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We support SB637 in that it will provide needed and predictable funding for therapeutic nursery services. These are lifeline services utilized by many families throughout Maryland so they have a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment for their children with special healthcare needs. The program allows families to continue to work and contribute to our robust economy and children to receive the early intervention services to which they are not only entitled, but that they desperately need to survive and thrive.

Federal and state law mandates that young children with disabilities shall receive early intervention services in the natural environment, and special education services in the least restrictive environment. This means, to the extent possible, every child should receive services alongside his or her peers without disabilities. Separate education should only occur if success cannot be achieved with appropriate services and supports in a less restrictive setting.

Currently, the Maryland State Department of Education partners, through the Medically Fragile Children Birth to Five grant, with five organizations in the state to provide medically-based child care and early education services to children with medical diagnoses and those who have developmental delays, physical disabilities, and behavioral issues requiring specialized care. The Arc Montgomery County is one of the organizations that receives this grant funding and uses the funding to run its inclusive infant and childcare program. The program is a model not only in our state, but in our country, for how children with and without these special healthcare needs can and should receive quality childcare together. In The Arc Montgomery County program, all children benefit from the ratios of care and individualized approach.

SB 637 seeks to mandate and increase funding for the therapeutic nursery programs that currently receive funding through the Medically Fragile Children Birth to Five grant. This mandate is critical when we consider that the grant program has not been predictably funded and cost of living increases have been hit or miss over the years. No business can operate without a certain measure of predictability and we hope SB637 will create this measure to keep these programs vibrant and in place.

As The Arc is committed to creating a world of inclusion, we would also like to see preference in funding through this program to go to organizations with goals to increase inclusion. Research shows that children with and without disabilities

experience positive outcomes when students with disabilities are educated alongside their typically developing peers, yet 23.4% of Maryland’s preschool children are in separate classes and schools.<sup>i</sup> The “blueprint” for the future educational success of Maryland’s children should begin early in childcare and with the message that we are all better when we are together.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ande Kolp  
Executive Director

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<sup>i</sup> *Moving Maryland Forward: Elevating Maryland’s Birth to Kindergarten System of Services for Young Children with Disabilities and their Families*. MSDE. January 2020.

# **B&T- SB637\_Adventist\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Nicklas, Andrews

Position: FAV



820 West Diamond Avenue, Suite 600  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
[www.AdventistHealthCare.com](http://www.AdventistHealthCare.com)

February 19, 2020

To: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
From: Adventist HealthCare  
Re: SB637 – Children – Therapeutic Nursery Programs – Funding

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

SB637 establishes an annual appropriation to support Therapeutic Nursery Programs which provide specialized child care and early childhood education for children with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities or delays in social, emotional or behavioral functioning.

The Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness, a member of Adventist HealthCare, is a private, non-profit agency based in Rockville, MD with a mission to improve the social and emotional health of young children and their families. Founded in 1983 as an outgrowth of a six-year clinical research project by the National Institute of Mental Health, the Lourie Center is a pioneer and leader in the field of infant and child mental health. It now serves more than 4,000 children and families in the Washington metropolitan area.

The Lourie Center operates a Therapeutic Nursery Program (TNP) – an integrated early childhood mental health and education program, serving 36 families with high-risk children ages 3 to 5. These children exhibit significant social and emotional issues – many have experienced trauma in their home life and have been expelled from mainstream preschools or daycares due to safety concerns and disruptive behavior. The TNP partners with parents and caregivers to effectively support the child's development and the family as a whole. The program has an 80% success rate of integrating children back into mainstream education programs.

The Lourie Center is one of three entities operating TNPs in Maryland. Each program focuses on a different population, but all serve children with the intense needs who require specialized care and whose learning has been significantly disrupted. The programs had been level funded for many years, despite increasing costs. In 2019, however, TNP funding was dramatically reduced statewide. This reduction threatens the sustainability of all TNP programs. SB637 would provide a much-needed baseline of reliable funding for these vital programs.

For these reasons, Adventist HealthCare supports SB637 and encourages the committee to give **a favorable report.**



**ACY\_FAV\_SB 637**

Uploaded by: Rock, Melissa

Position: FAV



To: The Honorable Chair, Senator Guy Guzzone, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee  
From: Melissa S. Rock, Birth to Three Strategic Initiative Director &  
Re.: **SB 637: Children—Therapeutic Nursery Program—Funding**  
Date: February 19, 2020  
Position: **SUPPORT**

Therapeutic Nursery Programs (TNP) serve young children identified as having multiple behavioral and emotional problems. It is designed to help those children develop the social emotional skills they need to succeed. Social emotional skills are especially important when young children enter school because they are the skills that allow children to control their impulses and get along well with their peers.

A recent study of TNP explains that:

TNP is a relationship-centered program informed by attachment theory. It aims to alter children's developmental trajectories through identifying and targeting risk factors early on and bolstering protective factors so children can enter kindergarten with increased readiness for learning and improved relatedness to others. The intervention model includes four fundamental tenets: (1) the combination of predictable structure with warmth and emotional attunement, (2) physical and emotional safety, (3) co-regulation from trusted adults, and (4) caregiver support.<sup>i</sup>

The study found that 4 out of 5 children from TNPs end up mainstreamed in elementary school.<sup>ii</sup> Furthermore, participation in individual therapy for the children also correlated with both increased social emotional and math and language skills.<sup>iii</sup>

By fully funding TNPs, as required by SB 637, we are investing in prevention and save significant expense on these same children later when they are diverted from needing Individualized Education Plans, special education services, and behavioral interventions. **We urge this committee to issue a favorable report on SB 637 to ensure our young children with significant behavioral and emotional needs get the services they need to be better prepared to succeed once they enter school.**

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<sup>i</sup> Yair Ziv, Kristen L. Capps Umphlet, Inbar Sofri, Stephanie Olarte & Jimmy Venza (2020): Changing developmental trajectory in high-risk families: the effectiveness of an attachment-informed Therapeutic Nursery Program (TNP) for preschool children with complex emotional and behavioral problems, Attachment & Human Development, at p. 4. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14616734.2020.1722717>

<sup>ii</sup> Id. at p. 12.

<sup>iii</sup> Id.

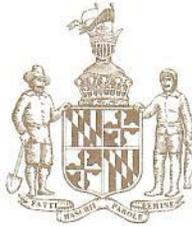
# **SB637 Therapeutic Nursery Program FAV**

Uploaded by: Senator King, Senator King

Position: FAV

NANCY J. KING  
*Legislative District 39*  
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SPONSOR STATEMENT**

**Senate Bill 637 – Children – Therapeutic Nursery Program - Funding**

February 19, 2020

Mister Chairman and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

Therapeutic Nursery Programs are licensed, integrated mental health and education programs for families with high-risk children from birth to five. These children show significant delays in social and emotional development. Many have experienced trauma in their life and many have been removed from typical mainstream preschool/daycares due to safety concerns or behavioral issues.

There are several Therapeutic Nursery Programs in the State. They include:

- The Arc of Maryland
- Kennedy Krieger Institute
- Kennedy Krieger PACT – Helping Children with Special Needs
- The Lourie Center for Children’s Social and Emotional Wellness

Therapeutic Nursery Programs partner with parents/caregivers to effectively support the development of the child and the family as a whole. Therapeutic Nursery Centers can also offer specialized child care, for example, services for children who are experiencing homelessness or housing uncertainty.

Therapeutic Nursery Programs have an over 80% success rate of transitioning children to a typical kindergarten and maintaining typical education placement and social-emotional gains through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. This success rate results in millions of dollars of savings to the state and counties by reducing long-term intensive special education expenditures.

Maryland State Department of Education has funded these programs at different levels using both state and federal funds. Fiscal 2020 saw a significant cut in funding to these programs. Senate Bill 637 will codify the Therapeutic Nursery Program and establish a per pupil funding formula for the program.

Interventions at younger ages have a huge potential to alter a child’s future developmental trajectory. The benefits from these early learning programs are substantial and need to be protected and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 637.

# **SB637\_The Arc Montgomery County\_Support\_Chri**

Uploaded by: Shawver, Christian

Position: FAV

## Testimony Supporting SB637 Children - Therapeutic Nursery Program - Funding Submitted by The Arc Montgomery County

**Goal of Testimony:** Ensure that children with developmental disabilities and delays *and* with significant medical conditions have access to comprehensive and inclusive early child care and medical care services through on-going funding and support.

### Program Information:

Infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities who are medically fragile cannot attend typical child care, because their needs are too great to be accommodated in that setting. They require specialized nursing care, specially-trained staff and team collaboration between and among physicians, therapists, case managers and other community partners.

*The Arc Montgomery County operates the only fully inclusive child care center in the Metropolitan Washington/Maryland area for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities who are medically fragile.*

- Only child care center in this area for infants and toddlers (ages birth to five years) needing daily nursing care and specialized equipment not available in typical childcare centers, i.e. children with:
  - Heart and breathing problems requiring monitors and oxygen
  - Eating disorders requiring nourishment through feeding tubes
  - Severe seizure disorders
  - Organ transplants and other serious surgeries
  - Juvenile Type I diabetes
- Comprehensive services include onsite nursing assessments, daily skilled nursing care/interventions, occupational, physical and speech therapy
- Family Coordinator available to assist families in accessing subsidies and other medical and child care services

### Service Area

- Montgomery County and surrounding jurisdictions – northern Prince Georges and lower Frederick counties

### Benefits of Medical Child Care

- \$1.3 million net annual benefit to State of Maryland due to reduced need for private duty nursing, increased parent earnings and benefits, and a rise in state tax revenues (2008 study by Dr. David Greenberg U.M.B.C. professor subcontracted by D.H.M.H.)
- Parents can return to work and/or school
- Children are in a safe, stimulating child care center with their typical peers and are better prepared for entry into school
- Children's special needs are met through onsite collaboration with Montgomery County Infant and Toddler Program (MCITP) including occupational, physical and speech therapy (as needed)
- Children most at risk for entering school unprepared (i.e. children with disabilities), according to the Maryland Early Childhood Advisory Council Three year action plan, 2009-2012, have access to quality care and education

*continued on next page*

# Administration

Connecting People of All Ages & Abilities with Their Communities to Build Inclusive Lives



- Onsite fully-inclusive preschool special education program “Building Bridges” for children 3 -5 years old with an IEP
- Children’s medical conditions may improve with less frequent need for hospitalizations due to daily nursing assessments and interventions

## Grant History

- In 2007, MSDE’s “Medically Fragile Children Birth to Five” was awarded to five programs, including The Arc Montgomery County’s program for infants and toddlers; one program closed in 2010
- Each center received approximately \$200,000 a year to serve medically fragile and other at risk children
- Subsequently, funding was dropped to \$137,500 for each of four centers and has remained stagnant despite rising costs

## Impact of Continued Funding:

- A fully-inclusive child care center will remain open to provide a seamless delivery of services for over 150 children 6 weeks to 10 years old
- Specifically, 38 children (birth-five years) needing specialized child care services will receive their medical, child care and special education services at one location
- Young children who are most at risk of entering school not “fully ready to learn” (i.e. children with disabilities and chronic illnesses), as outlined in Maryland Early Childhood Advisory Council Three year action plan, 2009-2012, will have access to quality early care and education
- Parents will not have to stop working, leave school or cut back on work hours to stay at home with their medically-fragile child

**Submitted by Christina Shawver**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**The Arc Montgomery County**  
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**MPS\_FAV\_SB637**

Uploaded by: Tompsett, Tommy

Position: FAV



February 19, 2020

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support– SB 637: Children - Therapeutic Nursery Program - Funding

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) is a state medical organization whose physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, MPS works to ensure available, accessible and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strives through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branch of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland excluding the D.C. suburbs, MPS represents over 700 psychiatrists as well as physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS supports Senate Bill 637 (SB 637). The goal of therapeutic nursery programs is to provide early interventions for youth with developmental delays. Intensive early interventions are critical, especially for the developmentally delayed population. These programs seek to address common problems in these children including attention, socialization, and language deficits in a structured school setting. Studies have shown that the earlier these interventions can begin, the greater their effect.

Currently, services for many of these toddlers are offered via programs such as Infants and Toddlers or Child Find if the family is knowledgeable of and capable enough to identify and participate in such services. These children might continue to receive services to some extent while in pre-school programs such as Head Start, but there are limitations to the services offered. The benefit of Therapeutic Nursery Program envisioned under SB 637 is that services can be integrated in the school setting thus providing optimal access to early intervention services that allow for the best treatment outcome."

For all the reasons stated above, MPS asks the committee for a favorable report on SB 637. If you have any questions with regard to this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at [tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com](mailto:tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Legislative Action Committee for the Maryland Psychiatric Society

# **SB637\_Valcourt-Pearce\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Valcourt-Pearce, Catherine

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB637**  
**Children - Therapeutic Nursery Program - Funding**

Hello! My name is Cat Valcourt-Pearce. This is my husband Larry, and our son, Cree. We also have an older neurotypical son and younger neurotypical deaf twins.

At birth, Cree was diagnosed with a heart defect. At 4 days old, he was diagnosed with a rare syndrome and at one month with a rare genetic disorder. He had open heart surgery at 7 weeks old. Once Cree was discharged, we had a home care nurse. I told her how terrified I was to go back to work because I had no idea where Cree could go, who I could trust, and who could deal with his complex medical needs. She told me about Karasik. Soon after, we went to visit the Center.

It was exactly what we were looking for. It has the critical full-time nursing staff and teachers skilled in caring for children with mild to severe disabilities. This is absolutely rare; most centers won't accept children like Cree, and many parents end up having to quit work and stay home. When Cree was 1.5 years old, the Center opened up to neurotypical children as well as children with disabilities.

Inclusion in a typical setting has been wonderful for Cree, especially as we are trying to determine the least restrictive environment for him. Not only is Cree helping to normalize disabilities for neurotypical children, which will reduce the incidences of bullying later, but he has the chance to be included in all kinds of "typical" childhood experiences. Our nonverbal, nonambulatory son has never faced exclusion at the Center because the children know he's one of them. They play with his hair, tickle him, sing and read to him, and talk to him. Cree has been fully accepted into the Karasik community.

Our twins have also attended Center since they were babies. They have introduced their hearing peers to Deaf culture and even taught them some sign language. They go to deaf school during the year, and then improve their auditory skills during their time at Karasik. It's a wonderful balance for them.

It is absolutely critical that funding and support continue for Karasik and other centers like it. These invaluable programs, with their essential nursing staff, allow my medically fragile son and others like him a safe place not only to grow but to thrive. Thank you.

Catherine Valcourt-Pearce  
[catherine.valcourt-pearce@gallaudet.edu](mailto:catherine.valcourt-pearce@gallaudet.edu)

**SB637\_AAMC\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Widerlite, Paula

Position: FAV

February 18, 2020

To: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
From: Anne Arundel Medical Center of Luminis Health  
Re: SB637 – Children – Therapeutic Nursery Programs – Funding

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

SB637 establishes an annual appropriation to support Therapeutic Nursery Programs which provide specialized childcare and early childhood education for children with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities or delays in social, emotional or behavioral functioning.

At Anne Arundel Medical Center, we see about 350 annual discharges of pediatric admissions that require ongoing and further mental health care. Mental Health services are of dire need for our community, highlighted again in the Community Health Needs Assessment most recently published. We are committed to supporting the mental health needs for all our patients. The opening of the J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center expands access for adult beds and offers post-acute services for adults and adolescents. In addressing our younger, vulnerable population, we have developed initiatives to bring together community partners and the hospital. This upcoming May, Dr. Monica Jones, Chair of Women's and Children's Services and Dr. Lauren Fitzpatrick, Medical Director for Pediatrics are hosting a *Healthy Minds: A Focus on Pediatric Mental Health* seminar. This event aims to discuss resources available to evaluate and manage pediatric mental health in primary care and outpatient settings, as well as exploring gaps and discussing solutions to improve care coordination of children and adolescents with mental health symptoms. In addition, we have identified the need in our community to partner with organizations like the Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness, a member of Adventist HealthCare, to address the rising needs of young children. According to our most recent Community Health Needs Assessment for Anne Arundel County, there was an 11.4% increase in early childhood (0-5 years of age) individuals served and an 8.4% increase in childhood (6-12 years of age) individuals served from FY17 to FY18. The Lourie Center is a private, non-profit agency based in Rockville, MD with a mission to improve the social and emotional health of young children and their families. The Lourie Center is a pioneer and leader in the field of infant and child mental health. It now serves more than 4,000 children and families in the Washington metropolitan area, regardless of ability to pay.

The Center currently operates a Therapeutic Nursery Program (TNP) – an integrated early childhood mental health and education program, serving 36 families with high-risk children ages 3 to 5. These children exhibit significant social and emotional issues – many have experienced trauma in their home life and have been expelled from mainstream preschools or

daycares due to safety concerns and disruptive behavior. The TNP partners with parents and caregivers to effectively support the child's development and the family as a unit. The program has an 80% success rate of integrating children back into mainstream education programs.

The Lourie Center is one of three entities operating TNPs in Maryland. Each program focuses on a different population, but all serve children with the intense needs that often cannot be met in other settings. The programs had been level funded for many years, despite increasing costs. In 2019, however, TNP funding was dramatically reduced statewide. This reduction threatens the sustainability of all TNP programs. SB637 would provide a much-needed baseline of reliable funding for these vital programs as they continue to work with us in bringing this service to Anne Arundel County in order to provide the support necessary to prevent future emergency department visits.

For these reasons, Anne Arundel Medical Center of Luminis Health supports SB637 and encourages the committee to give a **favorable report**.

# **SB637\_PACT\_FWA**

Uploaded by: Arneson, Emily

Position: FWA



**DATE:** February 19, 2020 **COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget & Taxation  
**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 637  
**BILL TITLE:** Children – Therapeutic Nursery Program - Funding  
**POSITION:** Support with amendments

**PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs, an affiliate of the Kennedy Krieger Institute, supports Senate Bill 637.**

### **Bill Summary:**

Senate Bill 637 establishes a Therapeutic Nursery Program to provide specialized child care and early childhood education for children with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities or delays in social, emotional or behavioral functioning. The bill includes an annual appropriation of \$10,000 for every typically developing child served and \$45,000 for every child served who has a developmental delays, physical disabilities, or delays in social emotional or behavioral functioning.

### **Background:**

PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs, Inc. operates the **only child care centers in the Baltimore Metropolitan area for young children who are medically fragile and infants and toddlers who are homeless.**

#### **World of Care Medical Child Care**

- Only child care center in the Baltimore Metropolitan area for young children (ages birth to five) needing daily nursing care and specialized equipment not available in typical child care centers, i.e. children with:
  - Heart and breathing problems requiring monitors and oxygen
  - Eating disorders requiring nourishment through feeding tubes
  - Severe seizure disorders
  - Organ transplants and other serious surgeries
  - Juvenile Type I diabetes
- Comprehensive services include daily skilled nursing care/interventions, occupational, physical and speech therapy.

#### **Therapeutic Nursery for Homeless Infants and Toddlers**

- Only Early Head Start/child care center in Baltimore City providing specialized attachment-based, trauma-informed care and education for infants and toddlers whose families are currently living in homeless shelters or transitioning back to the community
- Mental Health Services for parents using research-based interventions.

### **Rationale:**

PACT's goal is to serve all children in need, regardless of family income. While PACT receives government, foundation and corporate grants, as well as donations from generous private donors, our funding does not cover the actual cost of providing the complex array of services our children and families require. Additionally, our programs need sustained state funding that reflects annual cost-of-living adjustments.

#### **The Challenges Maryland Families Face**

1. Maryland children with complex medical needs have very few resources for medically supported day care and early childhood education, resulting in reduced parent employment.
2. Young children whose families are experiencing homelessness



are at risk for a number of adverse childhood experiences, including:

1. Learning disabilities
2. Major mental health disorders
3. Continuing the cycle of complex intergenerational trauma

**Our Answer: Benefits of Medical Child Care**

- \$1.3 million net annual benefit to State of Maryland due to reduced need for private duty nursing, increased parent earnings and benefits, and a rise in state tax revenues (2008 study by Dr. David Greenberg U.M.B.C. professor subcontracted by D.H.M.H.)
- Parents can return to work
- Children are in a safe, stimulating MSDE-accredited (five-star Maryland EXCELS rating) child care center with other children and are better prepared for entry into school.
- Children’s special needs are met through onsite occupational, physical and speech therapy
- 94% of children gain skills to close the gap with same-aged peers.
- Children’s medical conditions may improve with less frequent need for hospitalization due to daily nursing assessments and interventions.

**Benefits of Therapeutic Nursery for Homeless Infants and Toddlers:**

- Parents receive support in finding housing, employment, school programs and other community services (family support/case manager works with families)
- 100% of children participating in the Therapeutic Nursery program for at least 90 days demonstrated substantial increases in developmental growth, school readiness, and attachment skills, as measured by the Child Outcome System, Teaching Strategies Gold, and the NCAST Parent Interaction Scale, respectively
- Children’s social-emotional needs are met through family interventions, including individual counseling with parents, parent support groups, parent-child attachment work and attachment based play therapy
- High quality early education (Early Head Start) with an Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale score in the “Excellent” range

**PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 637.**

**DD Council DRM\_INFO\_SB0637**

Uploaded by: LONDON, RACHEL

Position: INFO



Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
*SB 637: Children – Therapeutic Nursery Program - Funding*  
February 19, 2020  
**Letter of Information**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council's (Council) mission is to advance the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life by eliminating barriers, creating opportunities, empowering people, and promoting innovation. Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) protects the legal and human rights of people with developmental disabilities. **The Council and DRM provide this letter of information to explain the possible unintended consequences of the additional funding mandate outlined in SB 637.**

**Federal and state law requires young children with disabilities receive early intervention services in the natural environment and special education services in least restrictive environment. This means, to the maximum extent appropriate, the child receives services alongside their peers without disabilities.** Separate education only occurs only if success cannot be achieved with appropriate services and supports in a less restrictive environment. This is true for young children as well. Currently, MSDE collaborates, through the Medically Fragile Children Birth to Five grant, with five organizations to provide medically-based child care and early education services to children with medical diagnoses and those who have developmental delays, physical disabilities, and behavioral issues requiring specialized care, throughout the state.<sup>i</sup> **Funding for that grant is provided through the budget process.**

SB 637 seeks to mandate and increase funding for the therapeutic nursery programs that currently receive funding through the Medically Fragile Children Birth to Five grant. We agree that increasing access to early care and education for Maryland's children is critical for their development. This is particularly true for young children with disabilities; however, **young children with disabilities need more access and opportunity to learn and play alongside their peers without disabilities.**

- **The funding mandate in SB 637 may provide an incentive for local school systems to send more young children to these separate programs.** \$45,000 per child with a disabilities and \$10,000 per child without a disability is significantly more money than any other funding formula (current or proposed) and more than the current grant provides.
- **Educating students in less restrictive settings is cost-effective.** Research shows that the total per pupil spending tends to be *higher* for students served in more restrictive environments. As compared to regular class: 13.8 percent higher for a resource placement, 33.3 percent higher for special class placements, 111.1 percent higher for special school placements.<sup>ii</sup>
- **Research shows that children with and without disabilities experience positive outcomes when students with disabilities are educated alongside their typically developing peers, yet 23.4% of Maryland's preschool children are in separate classes and schools.**<sup>iii</sup>

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, MD Developmental Disabilities Council: [RLondon@md-council.org](mailto:RLondon@md-council.org)

<sup>i</sup> *Child Care and Development Fund State Plan: FFY2019-FFY2021.*

<sup>ii</sup> Chambers, Perez, and Socias (May 2004).

<sup>iii</sup> *Moving Maryland Forward: Elevating Maryland's Birth to Kindergarten System of Services for Young Children with Disabilities and their Families.* MSDE. January 2020.