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Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Finance Resources Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Support HB396

Child Care Centers – Early Childhood Screening for Developmental Disabilities

Dear Madame Chair Kaiser and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB396 with amendments. This legislation requires that all child care centers licensed by Maryland State Department of Education Office of Child Care have one staff member on the premises who has completed training to facilitate screening for developmental disabilities. This bill requires that Center offer screening to all families of children under 3 years and that families receive referral. The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that children with developmental delays are identified and receive appropriate interventions as early as possible in order to achieve the best outcomes. In addition, the training will serve to equip child care professionals with the tools and knowledge necessary to recognize delays in their students and respond to them more confidently in the classroom. MSDE will approve and provide technical assistance for these trainings. This provision is a simple expansion of the planned but aborted rollout a few years ago requiring training in screening for developmental disabilities for participation in the Maryland EXCELS program. The Office of Child Care website currently lists this training as a requirement for Maryland EXCELS and notes that Regulations will be proposed and adopted no later than 2017. When asked about this, I was told by several sources that if we do not require this in Statute, it will not be done.

I will defer to my distinguished panel to provide more information and to answer your questions. I am also happy to accept the amendments that will be presented today by the Developmental Disabilities Council, as friendly. I request a favorable report on HB396 as amended.

Thank you,

Delegate Michele Guyton