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House Appropriations Committee

HB1365— Nonpublic Special Education Schools - State Contribution – Increase

March 18, 2021

Position: Support

The Arc Maryland supports House Bill 1365, which will require the state contribution to the cost of educating children with disabilities in nonpublic programs to be increased for certain purposes by 4% in fiscal year 2023 over the amount approved by the State Department of Education in fiscal year 2022. The bill will also require the State contribution to be increased in fiscal year 2023 by not less than an additional 2% or the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for certain purposes.

There are many students with disabilities who access their programs of education through non-public schools. This past year was incredibly hard on many children with disabilities. We have heard from parents who have children that could effectively access virtual instruction, experienced learning and skill loss, and may be returning to school with unique and new challenges. At this time, perhaps more than ever in our history, it will be incredibly important that professionals who support these children in nonpublic placements are fairly compensated so that we may continue to attract and retain qualified professionals in the education field.

We request a favorable report on HB1365.

Respectfully submitted,

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