

MICHELE GUYTON  
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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 HB 392**

**Child Care Homes, Large Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers – Early Childhood Screening and Assistance**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB392 as amended by the Ways and Means Committee to address concerns raised by child care advocates and providers. The bill requires that that all child care centers and family child care homes licensed by Maryland State Department of Education Office of Child Care offer a developmental screening approved by the Maryland State Department of Education to all families of children under 3 years of age. 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 and ensure Kindergarten readiness. Child care providers will also be required to provide information on the Maryland Infant and Toddlers Program to families and to assist families who request help contacting that agency. Over half of children who would benefit from early educational interventions are not identified until they enter public school. Data show that the earlier a child with developmental disabilities is identified, the more likely that they will no longer require special education services later in school and that for every dollar that we invest in early intervention, we recover seven dollars in long-term educational and economic benefits. For these reasons I ask for a favorable report on HB396.

Sincerely,

Delegate Michele Guyton