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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

January 27, 2021

Support HB392

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 HB392 which is a reintroduction of HB396 which passed this Committee and the House unanimously last session. This legislation is presented to you in its final form which includes amendments added by the Early Childhood sub-committee last year. The bill requires that that all child care centers licensed by Maryland State Department of Education Office of Child Care offer screening either on-site or by referral to appropriate programs 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. I have spoken with sub-committee Chair Ebersole about this bill and am happy to work with him and the sub-committee to make a few wording changes that will satisfy the concerns of child care advocates who have reached out to me during the interim.

I ask for a favorable report on HB392.

Thank you,

Delegate Michele Guyton