

MSCCA Testimony HB 664 March 29 senate hearing EHE

Uploaded by: Christina Peusch

Position: FAV



**Caring For Maryland's Most
Important Natural Resource™**

Maryland State Child Care Association

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The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is a non-profit, statewide, professional association incorporated in 1984 to promote the growth and development of child care and learning centers in Maryland. MSCCA has over 4500 members working in the field of early childhood. We believe children are our most important natural resources and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

March 29, 2022

Position: Favorable

HB 664

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

MSCCA recognizes and appreciates the efforts of Delegate Guyton to increase awareness about resources and to support early childhood intervention strategies for children under the age of three years by including licensed child care in the education and assistance for families about the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program.

MSCCA understands early intervention is critical to best outcomes for children and families and support providing important information about professional resources in Maryland.

MSCCA supports HB 664 as we know child care providers value their role in communication with the families they serve and embrace assisting and connecting their families with best resources administering the Maryland Infant and Toddler Programs across our state.

MSCCA supports communication in the numerous ways indicated in HB 664 with families for education, awareness and early interventions as well embrace the role of assisting parents or guardians with scheduling to provide screenings, if necessary.

The child care provider community stands ready to connect families to the necessary resources and looks forward to opportunities to partner with Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program to provide accurate and up to date information as a critical resource available for families to benefit children.

We remain committed to working with Delegate Guyton and the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee on this important legislation. We thank the Committee and urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Christina Peusch, Executive Director

HB 664_MFN_FAV_Macsherry Screening.pdf

Uploaded by: Clinton Macsherry

Position: FAV



Testimony Concerning HB 664
“Child Care Programs – Maryland Infants and Toddlers
Program – Information and Assistance”
Submitted to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 29, 2022

Position: Favorable

Maryland Family Network (MFN) has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and other supports for children and families in Maryland. As the largest and oldest statewide child advocacy organization in Maryland, MFN is strongly committed to ensuring the health and well-being of children across our state.

MFN has long recognized the importance of early identification of developmental delays, and therefore supports HB 644 as amended, which specifically concerns the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP). MITP provides early intervention services to meet the developmental needs of children with disabilities from birth to age 3. These services can be delivered in the child’s home or child care setting. Funding for MITP comes from Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), state general funds, and local funding.

HB 664 as amended would promote early childhood developmental screenings for children under age 3 by enlisting child care providers—who are typically “trusted messengers” for the parents of young children—in efforts to expand public awareness of MITP, provide contact information for local MITP lead agencies, and upon a parent’s request assist in scheduling an appropriate screening.

MFN commends the sponsor for working to achieve the bill’s goals in concert with the child care provider community. MFN urges for your favorable consideration.

HB664_InfantsandToddlers_KennedyKrieger_Support_SE

Uploaded by: Emily Arneson

Position: FAV



DATE: March 29, 2022 **COMMITTEE:** Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
BILL NO: House Bill 664
BILL TITLE: Child Care Programs – Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program – Information and Assistance
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports House Bill 664 - Child Care Programs – Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program – Information and Assistance

Bill Summary:

Beginning July 1, 2022, at least once every calendar year, a childcare program will provide parents and guardians information about the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program. At the request of the parent or guardian, the child care center will assist in scheduling a time and convenient location for the Infant and Toddlers program to provide the appropriate screening.

Background:

At Kennedy Krieger Institute, we have multiple, high impact programs in early childhood education serving “at risk” and medically complex children.

Our Programs include:

PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs, Inc., the only child care centers in the Baltimore Metropolitan area for 85 young children who are medically fragile and infants and toddlers who are homeless.

World of Care Medical Child Care: age’s birth to five needing daily nursing care and specialized equipment. Includes comprehensive services such as daily skilled nursing care/interventions, occupational, physical and speech therapy.

Therapeutic Nursery for Homeless Infants and Toddlers: only early Head Start in Baltimore 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. Also provide mental Health Services for parents using research-based interventions.

Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD): a multi-faceted, interdisciplinary center serving individuals from infancy into adulthood with, and at elevated likelihood for developing ASD, their families, and professionals in the ASD community. CARD combines research, clinical services, and training programs to unlock the potential of children with ASD, enrich their life experiences, empower parents and promote the well-being of families through evidence-based practices.

One of our major endeavors is developing innovative models and procedures for early detection of (ASD, communication delays, mental health challenges, and other behavioral and physical health challenges), and treatments for ASD and related challenges. Our highly trained triage team works with families to plan the assessment(s) needed to create a path forward that will lead to improved outcomes and quality of life.

Individualized intervention(s) are provided, including behavioral, occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, cognitive-behavioral, augmentative communication, social skills, medical management, job skills, and family support services.

Rationale:

Early in development, the brain is the most malleable, representing a formative period of neurodevelopment. During this time, the brain is growing, sculpting connections that are not needed, and strengthening needed connections within and across brain regions. When this set of processes occurs in enriching environments with exposures to appropriate inputs and without interference, it enhances a child's ability to learn at their greatest potential, and to achieve to the greatest possible level of success.

To thrive optimally, children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other disorders of the developing nervous system need to be in such enriching environments without interference and with specific forms of quality input, opportunities, and social-emotional milieus.

The literature has clearly shown that early delays in development, particularly when language is delayed, persist into later childhood and are associated with later deficits in literacy, social-emotional, behavioral, and school functioning (McKean et al., 2017; Suggate, Schaughency, McAnally, & Reese, 2018).

By providing parent's with information for the Infants and Toddler's program, parents and guardians having concerns about their child's development will have access to screenings that will improve early detection of delays, permitting access to early intervention which can significantly improve a child's developmental outcomes.

Kennedy Krieger Institute requests a favorable report on House Bill 664.

HB 644 - Favorable - Guyton - Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Michele Guyton

Position: FAV

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Ways and Means Committee
Early Childhood Subcommittee
Education Subcommittee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 29, 2022

HB664- Child Care Programs – Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program – Information and Assistance – FAVORABLE

Thank you Chair Pinsky and members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I am writing to respectfully request your consideration of HB664 which simply requires that child care programs provide parents and guardians of children under three years old with information about the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program. This bill has passed for the past two years by this Committee and the House. This version differs from last year's bill only in that the language has been simplified to ensure clearer understanding of the legislation after conversation with your Chair.

The Maryland Infant and Toddlers Program was established 35 years ago and is currently funded at approximately 15 million dollars per year. This program assists children with developmental delays and their families from birth until age 4 by providing screening, referrals, information and services.

From October of 2020 to October of 2021, the program served 17,649 children and their families but we know that many children who need special education services are still not identified until they actually enter the public school system. By that point in their critical development, we have missed important opportunities to provide effective early intervention services.

I ask for your support for this simple, no cost bill that will ensure that our families have the information and supports they need to make sure that all of our children are better prepared for success when entering school.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB664.

Thank you,

Delegate Michele Guyton, D42B

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

HB664.EHEA.DD Council DRM The Arc.Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: FAV



Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

HB 664: Child Care Programs – Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program – Information and Assistance

March 29, 2022

Position: **Support**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, Disability Rights Maryland, and The Arc Maryland work to advance the inclusion, rights, and opportunities of people with developmental disabilities. We know that high-quality, coordinated early childhood services are critical for children with developmental delays and disabilities, and fully support the efforts of the Maryland State Department of Education’s (MSDE) Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) and the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) to increase access and opportunity for young children with disabilities to learn and play alongside their peers without disabilities.

Federal law requires that children with disabilities have opportunities to meaningfully participate in programs with their non-disabled peers.ⁱ To meaningfully participate, children may need additional services and supports – some provided through early intervention services or preschool special education and some provided by the early care and education provider. **While more than 19,000 children in Maryland receive early intervention services, many have not yet been identified.**

HB 664 requires child care programs to provide information about the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP) to each parent or guardian of a child under the age of 3. **Increased awareness and knowledge of this important program may lead to an increase in the number of young children who receive critical early intervention services.**

- **The benefits of the MITP are clear.** Maryland’s 2018 longitudinal research confirms the benefits - **68% of children who received early intervention services enrolled in general education by the time they were in fourth through eighth grade.** (JHU, CTE, Spring 2018).
- For SFY2019, data indicate that **23% of children receiving early intervention services completed their IFSP prior to age three and may not need additional special education services.**
- **The greater the intensity of early intervention services, the better prepared children are for kindergarten.** Most children receiving early intervention services demonstrate progress in the areas of social-emotional development, learning new skills, and meeting their needs. In 2017, 74% of children who exited the program with at least 6 months of service made as much or more progress as their typically-developing peers.ⁱⁱ

Referrals to the MITP increased over the last five years as a result of continuous public awareness efforts. By providing information to families, HB 664 will further these awareness efforts. Therefore, we support HB 664.

ⁱ 20 USC 1400 (IDEA, Part B, §619).

ⁱⁱ *Id.* Pg. 17.