

MICHELE GUYTON
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Baltimore County

Ways and Means Committee

Early Childhood Subcommittee

Education Subcommittee



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

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

February 24, 2022

Dear Madame Chair and colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to request your consideration of HB664 which simply requires that child care programs provides 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 clear understanding of the legislation at the request of the Senate Committee.

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 serviced 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.

Sincerely,

Delegate Michele Guyton

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