



Testimony Concerning HB 664
**“Child Care Programs – Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program – Information
and Assistance”**
Submitted to the House Ways & Means Committee
February 25, 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, 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 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 your favorable consideration.

