



**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.

February 10, 2022

Testimony Concerning HB 0467
Education-Teacher Certification-Montessori Schools
Submitted to Ways and Means Committee
Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair

Position: Support

MSCCA enthusiastically supports HB 467 and kudos to Delegate Ivey for championing this necessary legislation.

MSCCA is proud to have numerous Montessori programs as members and highly respects the important child development and curriculum standards Montessori training provides.

MSCCA is very active on and appointed by the Governor's office to many councils and committees including the State Early Childhood Advisory Council, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Framework Committee, Early Childhood Research Advisory Council, and the National Governor's Association/Council for Chief State School Officers Maryland team focusing on alternative pathways, teacher qualifications and competencies in early childhood education workforce.

Our country is facing a teacher exodus and the decline has been exacerbated due to the pandemic. We should embrace opportunities to expand and to support alternative pathways with proven competencies/equivalencies. Montessori trained teachers ensure that all children are well served and that their philosophy and implementation of Montessori approved curriculum enriches a child's classroom experience in ways that not only prepare them for their educational career, but for life.

MSCCA believes that all schools need highly qualified teachers in our classrooms. Montessori teacher preparation entails a rigorous graduate level course of study that covers child-development, curriculum and level specific subject matter, observation and assessment, supports for learning differences and culturally responsive teaching in addition to a robust student - teaching component.

This legislation is a great example of alternative pathways and opportunities which recognize comparable qualifications and would expand the scope of teacher certification for Montessori based instruction to include the highly qualified Montessori trained teaching professionals.

We support **HB 467** as important legislation ensuring Maryland children attending public Montessori programs have highly qualified teachers.

I encourage the committee to find for a favorable report.

