



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE PAM QUEEN
HB 881 – Early Childhood Collaboratives – Established and Tax Credit
for Contributions
SUPPORT

Greetings Chair Vanessa Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Jheanelle Wilkins, and esteemed members of the Ways & Means Committee:

HB 881– Early Childhood Collaboratives – Established and Tax Credit for Contributions establishes a publicly and privately funded Early Childhood Collaborations (ELC) under the Maryland Department of Education.

This bill does two key things – (1) establishes an equitable, quality, and community-based educational model for Pre-K; and (2) outlines a privately funding approach to address any state-funding gaps towards Pre-K education.

The ELC model is comprised of school districts, Head Start agencies, childcare centers, and private non-profit organizations that can receive public and private funding to ensure educational standards for Pre-K programs are available and consistent for families throughout the state.

This funding approach is intended to fill any state funding gaps with state income tax credits from private individual or business donors. This funding will supplement state budget dollars allocated to Pre-K education.

HB 881 is an important framework to achieve the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future which emphasizes equitable early education opportunities that prepare all children for school and success with public and private Pre-K partnerships.

I seek a favorable report for HB 881.