



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

Maryland State Child Care Association

2810 Carrollton Road
Annapolis, Md. 21403
Phone: (410) 820-9196
Email: info@mscca.org
www.mscca.org

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 5000 members working in the field of early childhood. We believe children are our most important natural resource and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

**House Bill 740
Education - Accountability and Implementation Board - Membership
House Ways and Means Committee
Position: SUPPORT**

The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) supports House Bills 740. This bill would expand the membership of the Accountability and Implementation Board, who reviews and makes recommendations relating to the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future*, and requires certain regions be represented by a member of the Board.

Pillar 1 of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future addresses the education needs of our youngest citizens. As a non-profit representing close to 5,000 child care professionals from all across the state who are directly affected by the implementation of the *Blueprint*, we believe that the Accountability and Implementation Board should be representative of all corners of the state.

While whole heartedly agreeing that geographic representation is needed on the Accountability and Implementation Board, we would suggest that representation for child care and prekindergarten be required as well. Child care professionals are an integral part of the Blueprint Pillar 1 goals for mixed delivery of prekindergarten, with a goal of 70/30 split of public and private providers. Unfortunately, there are many barriers to the private providers that, unless remedied, will prevent the attainment of the mixed-delivery goal. Those barriers include lack of an equitable alternative pathway to certification for community providers, lack of resources to successfully write for and administer very complex prek grants, and funding flaws. With so many important issues relating to the field being considered by the Accountability and Implementation Board, we would like to ensure that child care has a seat on the Board to offer industry knowledge and insight. In the same way that education issues vary regionally, they also vary depending on the age of the children and students.

MSCCA requests a favorable report on HB 740 and ask that some consideration be given to how to ensure that all aspects of the Blueprint are represented as well.