



**Testimony in support of
House Bill 888: Education – Prekindergarten Alternative Teacher
Preparation Program – Authorization and Reporting**

**Ways and Means Committee
Position: Favorable**

February 28, 2023

Strong Schools Maryland is a network of education advocates dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. **We stand in support of House Bill 888**, which if enacted, would expand authorized prekindergarten teacher programs in the state.

The passage of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future began a new period in Maryland’s journey to achieve educational equity, especially with regard to early learning. The Blueprint established publicly-funded, full day pre-kindergarten in the state so that all children are ready to learn and be successful when they enter kindergarten. This can only be achieved if our state has the capacity to do so. This bill would alter requirements for prekindergarten teachers, effectively expanding options for qualified teachers and creating more options for families.

This bill aligns with the Blueprint’s vision of early education as a critical foundation for lifelong learning and success. For these reasons, **we urge a favorable report on House Bill 888.**

*For more information, contact Maddie Long:
maddie@strongschoolsmaryland.org*