

Senate Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

SB 452: Child Care Affordability Commission – Establishment

February 12, 2025

Position: Support with Amendment

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights and quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Currently, the Maryland State Department of Education partners with certain organizations to provide **medically-based child care and early education services to children with medical diagnoses and those who have developmental delays, physical disabilities, and behavioral issues requiring specialized care**. The Arc Montgomery County operates an inclusive, specialized infant and childcare program, known as the Karasik Center. The program is a model, not only in our state, but nationally recognized for programming that supports children with and without special healthcare needs to receive quality childcare- together. In The Arc Montgomery County program, all children benefit from the ratios of care and individualized approach.

We believe the perspectives of a therapeutic childcare provider, like The Arc Montgomery County, would be very valuable for the input they could provide about the affordability experience through the lens of parents of children with complex care needs. For this reason, we respectfully ask for an amendment adding:

(#) one representative of The Arc Montgomery County Karasik Family, Infant & Childcare Center designated by the chief executive officer of The Arc Montgomery County.

We apologize we were not able to have a conversation with madame Sponsor King prior to this hearing today and we truly appreciate her consideration of this request.

For more information, please contact: Ande Kolp, Executive Director
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