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**BILL:** **HB 1122: Office of Child Care Advisory Council – Membership - Alterations**      **DATE:** March 20, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Adding public library representation      **COMMITTEE:** Education, Energy and the Environment

**TESTIMONY FROM:** Carrie Willson, Executive Director, Calvert Library      **POSITION:** **Support**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Committee,

Calvert Library supports **HB 1122: Office of Child Care Advisory Council – Membership - Alterations**.

This legislation increases the maximum number of members of the Office of Child Care Advisory Council, adding a representative of the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators to the membership of the Council.

A core mission of every public library system is providing early childhood education. Calvert Library does this via storytime classes, STEM classes and interactive play at our library locations. We also do this via our Outreach and Mobile Services visiting licensed childcare providers for storytimes and delivering library materials as well as, delivering portable storytime kits to enhance the early literacy instruction of child care providers.

A representative of the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators on the Council would help strengthen the collaborations that already exist between public libraries and child care providers in every jurisdiction. By integrating library expertise into the Council, policymakers can ensure a more comprehensive approach to early childhood education positively impacting children, families, and child care providers across our state.

Thank you for your support for our state’s youngest learners. We ask that you **favorably recommend HB 1122** for passage.

Sincerely,

Carrie Willson, Executive Director, Calvert Library

