



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Testimony in Support of SB 857
“Child Care - Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Modifications and Workgroup”
Submitted to the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
March 5, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) supports SB 857, which would make several helpful modifications to the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant.

MDAEYC is a professional association of 1,700 early childhood educators, allied professionals, and families. We promote high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood education practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

We support the following modifications to the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant that are proposed in SB 857:

1. The Prekindergarten Expansion Grants cannot be used to supplant child care slots for infants and toddlers
2. The Grants may be used to add slots for additional children
3. The Grant applications are required to use plain language and be available in multiple languages
4. The dates of the Grant application and awarding of the Grant funds are modified to better align with the admissions cycle used by most child care programs, and
5. A multi-year Grant award process is included to provide funding predictability and stability for participating programs.

MDAEYC supports these proposed Prekindergarten Expansion Grant program modifications and respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 857.

If you have any questions, please contact: Stephanie Schaefer, PhD. Program Coordinator, at stephanie.schaefer@mdaeyc.org or 240-441-3280.