



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

Maryland State Child Care Association

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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 5500 members working in the field of child care/early childhood education. 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.

Testimony: HB 1122 Office of Child Care Advisory Council- Membership-Alterations

Submitted to: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

March 20, 2025

Maryland State Child Care Association strongly supports HB 1122.

The Office of Child Care (OCC) Advisory Council helps shape and guide the goals and operations of the office by reviewing proposed regulations related to the care of children, recommending policy priorities, and identifying issues of importance to child care providers and consumers.

As Co-Chair of the Office of Child Care Advisory Council, MSCCA enthusiastically welcome representative for the Association of Public Library Administrators. The wealth of community engagement and resources they bring to early childhood policies and opportunities in the communities will enhance the Council. The addition of a resolute Council representative from the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators is welcome as an expert, partner, and valuable resource.

Designating a seat for Library Administrators will ensure the Council has engagement from a trusted resource that fosters literacy development, imagination, and a love for reading. Additionally, libraries offer safe spaces for social interaction, educational programs for children and families, and a foundation for lifelong learning and resources.

Libraries provide technology and computer access, which is free to children and families allowing equal access to learning materials regardless of socioeconomic background. The addition will help the Council with their charge and enhance perspectives. Libraries also offer access to computers with high-speed internet and online resources to assist families with programs, such as the Child Care Scholarship Program applications and documentation required through online portal.

Early childhood programs can benefit from public libraries to help meet educational needs of young children and their families. Libraries offer rich learning environments with knowledgeable staff that design events and programs for young children, their families, and caregivers.

Maryland Association of Public Libraries can support the Councils work in numerous ways by sharing valuable information about resources. Libraries provide consultants on topics including extending lesson plans, aligning books with themes and curriculum.

Additionally, public libraries create strong partnerships with community organizations to reach the children most at risk. Currently the Office of Child Care Advisory Council lacks representation from the libraries and as co-chair for the Council, I recommend expanding to include libraries.

HB 1122 is no cost legislation which will yield benefits to the Office of Child Care Advisory Council's charge to recommend policy priorities and identify issues of importance to child care providers and consumers.

MSCCA requests a favorable report.