



**Bill Number: HB 1475 Office of Child Care Advisory Council – Publicly Funded
Prekindergarten – Analysis and Report (Mixed Delivery Model Viability Act)
Submitted to: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee**

Position: Favorable

April 2, 2025

Dear Chair Feldman and Vice Chair Kagan and esteemed members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Ruby Daniels, President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA), representing over 4,000 licensed family child care providers across the state. On behalf of our association and the hardworking educators in community-based settings, I am writing in strong support of HB 1475.

This bill is critical to ensuring that the **Blueprint for Maryland's Future**, specifically Pillar 1's mixed delivery model, becomes viable and equitable for all stakeholders. Without action, family childcare programs—many of which are small, woman- and minority-owned businesses—risk being left behind.

Here's what we know:

- **The Blueprint's goals cannot be met without us.** Community-based programs, including family child care, have the capacity to serve over 206,000 children. Yet, less than 10% of publicly funded Pre-K seats are in private settings. We are ready—but not yet included equitably.
- **There is a disconnect between vision and implementation.** Many local education agencies have requested waivers, unable to meet the 30% mixed delivery requirement. HB 1475 creates the space for structured analysis and accountability to bridge this gap.
- **The current system lacks consistency and equity.** Discrepancies in policies between public schools and community-based providers—from regulations and workforce expectations to reimbursement methods—hinder participation. Providers face delayed payments, changing grant guidelines, and unclear program expectations.
- **The workforce crisis is real.** Maryland has experienced a 15% decline in licensed childcare programs since the pandemic. Family childcare providers operate on razor-thin margins. Without three- and four-year-olds in our care, we cannot sustain our programs, and families lose vital access to flexible, full-day, relationship-based care.
- **Parents need choices and hours that work.** Most family childcare homes are open 10–12 hours a day, unlike the 6.5-hour school day. We offer transportation, meals, continuity of care, and a nurturing environment that complements—not competes with—public school settings.



**Maryland State
Family Child Care
Association**

www.msfccca.org

HB 1475 is not just a bill—it is a **necessary blueprint for how we move forward together**. It centers the voices of providers, creates a roadmap for improving mixed delivery, and requires collaboration among MSDE, the AIB, and community experts through the Governor’s Office of Child Care Advisory Council.

We urge the committee to support HB 1475 so that Maryland’s families have real choices, providers have a seat at the table, and the promise of the Blueprint can be fulfilled equitably.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruby Daniels

President, Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA)