



Centreville Branch: 121 S. Commerce St., Centreville MD 21617
410.758.0980
Kent Island Branch: 200 Library Circle, Stevensville, MD 21666
410.643.8161

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
HB 1122 – Office of Child Care Advisory Council – Membership – Alterations
March 20, 2025
Support/Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the committee :

I am writing in support of 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 and adds a member of the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators (MAPLA) to the membership of the Council.

Public libraries have a long relationship with our childcare communities. Public libraries offer early childhood education through our story time programs, which foster a love of reading early in a child's life and offer activities to build fine and gross motor skills, socialization, and early literacy skills. Public libraries offer collections for children to practice their reading skills. Our parenting collections offer resources to parents who need help or simply desire to know the latest in child development. Many of our families are homeschool families who use the public library as their resources for learning at all stages of their child's life. When the public schools in our county started offering preschool services, their teachers come to the public library to learn how we do story time to foster early childhood education.

The Queen Anne's County Library offers a wide variety of programming for early childhood education. Bouncing Babies (0-18 months) is our program for our youngest library users which incorporates rhymes, songs, and bounces with a story. There is also time after the program for socialization, which is important to a child's brain development and their emotional development. Toddler Story Time and Mother Goose on the Loose (18-36 months) both offer stories combined with nursery rhymes, fingerplays, songs, movement, and an early literacy activity. Preschool Story Time (3-5 year olds) incorporates stories, songs, flannel boards, fingerplays, movement, and crafts to develop early literacy skills in young childrens so they enter Kindergarten ready to read and learn. These programs are attended by families with young children, homeschool families, and some in-home daycares. Our library system also offers Story Time on Wheels, a program that trains volunteers to go into in-home daycares and model reading behavior and support early literacy skills with crafts.

There are many different ways a child can learn the early literacy skills they need and other early childhood education skills. For profit preschools and child care centers offer programs. Head Start and local Judy Centers help those children who are at risk for starting school at a disadvantage. Some parents homeschool their children. The public library is there offering early childhood education to those who may not be able to afford a for-profit preschool, whose child did not make it into the public school preschool program or for those who simply choose not to send their child to a public school and take on the important task of teaching their children from home. Allowing a public librarian to be a member of the the Council ensures that all entities that work with our children to foster early childhood education skills are heard and can offer their expertise.

Queen Anne's County Library supports the passage of HB 1122, which supports the Moore/Miller administration's priority of supporting early childhood learning and caregivers.

Thank you for your consideration,



Centreville Branch: 121 S. Commerce St., Centreville MD 21617
410.758.0980

Kent Island Branch: 200 Library Circle, Stevensville, MD 21666
410.643.8161

Janet Salazar
Director