

Education, Energy & Environment Committee

April 2, 2025

**House Bill 1475
Mixed Delivery Model Viability Act**

SUPPORT

The Association of Community Services (ACS) of Howard County, a 501c3 nonprofit, is a membership organization of seventy-seven nonprofit agencies in our community. Our members provide critical services ranging from housing to food assistance, mentoring, legal services, transportation, elder care, and more for our county residents.

Pillar One of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future seeks to improve access to prekindergarten education through a mixed delivery system of public and private providers. Unfortunately, it does not account for the significant operational and financial implications private providers face in participating. There are significant discrepancies in the State codes that regulate private and public prekindergarten providers, and in the implementation requirements for both, that make it more difficult for private providers.

House Bill 1475 will provide a critical analysis of the mixed delivery prekindergarten system in Pillar One to identify areas that need to be aligned between private and public prekindergarten providers. Given the critical need for quality prekindergarten programs in our community, it is imperative that this analysis is done so that the mixed-delivery model will be successful, and private providers are not disadvantaged in its implementation.

ACS strongly supports HB 1475, the Mixed Delivery Model Viability Act.

Submitted by,

Lois K Mikkila

Lois K Mikkila
Executive Director
Association of Community Services of Howard County
lois.mikkila@acshoco.org
443-518-7701