

**HB 1122 - Office of Child Care Advisory Council - Membership - Alterations**

**Ways and Means**

**March 3, 2025**

**SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Committee Members:

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) strongly supports **HB 1122 - Office of Child Care Advisory Council - Membership - Alterations**. The legislation would add a member of the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators (MAPLA) to the Office of Child Care Advisory Council. The Prince George's County Memorial Library System, as well as representatives from all 24 public library systems in Maryland, belong to the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators.

Prince George's County Memorial Library System, like our counterparts across the state, has a strong and collaborative relationship with our community's childcare providers. This relationship is built on our shared and steadfast commitment to early education, literacy, and preparing our youngest learners for success in Kindergarten. Our library is a valuable resource to childcare providers, giving them access to thousands of books, hundreds of early literacy programs, and services geared toward their specific needs. PGCMLS staff provide professional development training to licensed childcare providers on the Every Child Ready to Read curriculum so they can engage their young learners in talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing to support their pre-reading development. PGCMLS staff conduct onsite "Lunch and Learns" at childcare centers to support their early literacy initiatives.

Public libraries also support the business needs of childcare providers through one-on-one appointments with librarians, access to business resources, tools, and networking opportunities. A representative of the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators on the Council would help strengthen these collaborations, ensuring that childcare providers have continued access to high-quality, research-based materials and programming.

There are an estimated 60,000 children under the age of five in Prince George's County. PGCMLS is proud to support their learning in many ways, including our collaboration with childcare providers. As such, **PGCMLS supports the passage of HB 1122 - Office of Child Care Advisory Council - Membership - Alterations** to strengthen this interdisciplinary cooperation.

Sincerely,



Mark Winston, Ph. D. CEO