

January 24, 2025

To: The House Ways and Means Committee

From:

Re: HB185 Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program - Funding - Alterations

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and Committee Members, and thank you for the opportunity to write to you in strong support of this important Therapeutic Childcare legislation. Special thanks to Delegates Mireku-North, Chair Atterbeary, Foley, Kaufman, Miller, Solomon, Terras, and Vogel as well as Senator King for their leadership and championing some of our most vulnerable and youngest children.

My son was a student in the therapeutic nursery program (TNP) at the Lourie Center.

The TNP services were critical to my family. They helped my son learn how to manage his emotions and gave him a sense of acceptance and self confidence. My son had an IEP for a few years and then no longer needed any extra support. Without the help of the TNP at a critical time, this could have been a very different story.

The funding is critical to allow more children to be helped at a critical time of their lives.

Today, I urge you for a favorable report on HB185— so that more children can be helped so that they can be successful and so that fewer children need long term help, which will both help society and save funds in the long run.

Best,

Wendy Kisch