



Testimony Concerning HB 1475
“Office of Child Care Advisory Council - Publicly Funded Prekindergarten - Analysis and Report (Mixed Delivery Model Viability Act)”
Submitted to the House Ways and Means Committee
March 11, 2025

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports HB 1475, which would require the Office of Child Care Advisory Council to conduct an analysis of the mixed delivery publicly funded prekindergarten system.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and early childhood education as well as other supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on child care policy and are strongly committed to ensuring that children, along with their parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.

A cornerstone of pre-K expansion under the “Blueprint for Maryland’s Future” — the State’s landmark 2020 education reform bill — is “mixed delivery,” the principle that publicly funded pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds should be offered not solely in public schools. High-quality providers already established in their communities, such as child care programs, can receive public funds to educate pre-K students, provided that the quality of the education is the equivalent of what those pupils would receive in a public school classroom.

The importance of mixed delivery is four-fold: it allows school systems to focus funds on instruction rather than capital costs; it better meets the wrap-around care needs of working parents; it incentivizes the expansion of quality for all children served in the community-based programs, not just the pre-K population; and it avoids undermining the affordability of child care for children birth through age 3.

The principle of “mixed delivery” is a cornerstone of pre-K expansion in Maryland, but the public-private partnerships needed for mixed delivery to work have been hamstrung by barriers that prevent most high-quality child care programs from participating. An analysis of those barriers would inform strategies and help arrive at solutions.

MFN urges a favorable report on HB 1475.

Submitted by Beth Morrow, Director of Public Policy

