



January 27, 2025

To: The House Ways and Means Committee

From: The Lourie Center for Children's Social and Emotional Wellness

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Madam Chair and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Therapeutic Childcare legislation under consideration, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this critical conversation. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the esteemed Delegates and Senator for their dedication and leadership in advocating for the needs of our most vulnerable and youngest children.

As the Vice President of Special Education and Early Childhood Programs at Adventist HealthCare, I bring over 15 years of experience as an educator and education administrator, specializing in serving vulnerable populations, including those in special education and low-income communities. While Adventist HealthCare is widely recognized as a premier medical center, we are deeply proud of our unwavering commitment to addressing the social and emotional needs of children and families through the efforts of the Lourie Center and its Therapeutic Nursery Program.

Our Therapeutic Nursery Program stands as a testament to our dedication to early intervention and support for children. This program not only serves as a crucial investment in our community but also proves to be a cost-effective measure in the long run. By providing a structured and nurturing environment, our Therapeutic Nursery Program equips preschoolers with the tools to regulate impulses, foster positive relationships, express emotions healthily, boost self-esteem, and cultivate a love for learning.

Research has demonstrated that such early interventions not only enhance the well-being of children and families but also significantly reduce the likelihood of future incarceration, poor health outcomes, and other challenges. By supporting initiatives like the Therapeutic Childcare legislation, we are not only investing in the present well-being of our children but also in a brighter and more prosperous future for our society.

I implore you to consider the profound impact that this legislation can have on the lives of countless children and families in our community. By advocating for sustained funding and



support for specialized care programs like the Therapeutic Childcare initiative, we are taking a vital step towards ending intergenerational adversity and ensuring that every child can reach their full potential.

Thank you for your dedication to our children, families, and community. Your commitment to this cause is truly commendable, and I am confident that together, we can make a lasting and positive difference in the lives of those who need it most.

With sincere gratitude,

A. Kesso Diallo

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