

Hearing Testimony March 3, 2025
House Ways and Means Committee
Service Employees International Union, Local 500

HB1122

Office of Child Care Advisory Council - Membership – Alterations

SUPPORT

SEIU Local 500 represents over 20,000 working people in Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia. Our union represents the support staff at the Montgomery County Public School system, Family Child Care Providers, Faculty and Staff at several Maryland colleges and universities, staff at non-profits and many other working people across the region. We urge a FAVORABLE Report on HB1122 – **Office of Child Care Advisory Council - Membership - Alterations**. We would also like to thank the sponsor for her support of the early childhood community.

This bill seeks to enhance the work of the Office of Child Care Advisory Council. This council plays a vital role in advising and supporting the Early Childhood Development Division of the Maryland State Department of Education, ensuring that regulations affecting child care are consistent and well-coordinated across State agencies, and addressing key issues affecting the care of children in Maryland.

By reviewing and suggesting priorities, the council ensures that the needs of children and families are effectively addressed, while fostering collaboration between departments to improve child care services. This bill's proposal to increase the council's membership by adding a representative from the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators is a thoughtful and strategic step. Libraries are essential community hubs that support early childhood development, and this addition will enhance the council's ability to consider a wider range of perspectives, ensuring that all aspects of child care, learning, and development are thoroughly represented.

With the addition of this new member, the council will be better equipped to support Maryland's children, families, and child care providers through thoughtful advice, coordination, and collaboration across agencies. I strongly support this bill and the positive impact it will have on early childhood care and development in our state.

Therefore, we request a favorable report on HB1122.