



**Local power, collective voice
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

March 19, 2025

Support – SB0359/HB0185 – Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program - Funding - Alterations

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of **SB0359/HB0185 – Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program - Funding - Alterations**, because it would extend the Therapeutic Child Care Grant program. Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland conduct community needs assessments and address the needs of children and families in their respective jurisdiction. This bill will address the challenges families and children face finding affordable quality childcare to address social and emotional behavioral needs in Maryland.

Child care programs that would be covered under TCCP, which are also known as therapeutic nurseries, work with children birth to age 5 whose significant social and emotional challenges, among other possible factors, put them at high-risk for poor school and life outcomes. Young children are expelled at three times the rate of children in kindergarten through 12th grade. We know supports from birth to five are some of the most critical years for child development, and it is important for this program to continue.

Therapeutic childcare centers are one way to address the problem. By partnering with parents/caregivers to support the social-emotional development of children, helping them learn to manage behaviors, and addressing childhood trauma with evidence-based therapeutic interventions, therapeutic childcare centers can improve the trajectory of a child's life.

We urge you to support SB0359/HB0185 – Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program - Funding - Alterations, as it will support children who need the social and behavioral services in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Chair