



**The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair  
Ways and Means Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 131  
Annapolis, MD 21401**

Testimony On behalf of LCAM on House Bill 325

Good afternoon,

My name is Rossana Espinoza-Thorndahl. I am a resident of Montgomery County and the Program Coordinator of the Latino Child Care Association of Maryland, Inc. (LCAM). LCAM is a nonprofit organization representing hundreds of Spanish-speaking family child care providers and early childhood educators in the state. I will be providing written testimony on behalf of our organization today.

The Latino Child Care Association of Maryland is in favor of House Bill 325, which allows GED exam takers to take all four parts of the GED in Spanish. Currently, an individual can take three out of four sections in Spanish, with the Reasoning Through Language Arts (RTLA) section being the only one taken in English. The GET should not test English proficiency; rather, it should demonstrate a high school level of understanding of the GED topics. The bill also mandates a study to be conducted by the Maryland Department of Labor, which has submitted written testimony in favor of the bill. This bill will allow qualified child care providers whose first language is not English to more fully demonstrate their mastery of content that is key to their work in early childhood education.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony.

Sincerely,

**Rossana Espinoza-Thorndahl  
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