



**Maryland State
Family Child Care
Association**
www.msfccca.org

Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 1475
Submitted by Ruby Daniels President, MSFCCA
Committee: Ways and Means Committee
March 10, 2025

Position: Favorable

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and Esteemed Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1475 – The Mixed Delivery Model Viability Act. As the President of MSFCCA representing over 4,100 family childcare providers in Maryland, family childcare provider for over 30 years and an independent Pre-K Expansion grantee. I have seen firsthand both the opportunities and challenges that exist within the mixed delivery, publicly funded prekindergarten system in Maryland.

House Bill 1475 is an essential step toward ensuring that all early childhood education providers—public schools, childcare centers, Montessori, Head start and family childcare homes—are equitably included in Maryland’s prekindergarten system. It is crucial that this analysis actively includes feedback from all stakeholders, particularly those in family childcare, as we are uniquely positioned to serve families who seek small high-quality, flexible, and developmentally appropriate early education in a home-based setting.

Understanding the Complexity of the Mixed Delivery System

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future envisions a diverse early childhood education landscape, but it is critical to acknowledge that family childcare providers operate differently from childcare centers and public schools. We are small businesses embedded in our communities, offering low teacher-to-child ratios, continuity of care, and culturally responsive programming.

However, we also face disproportionate administrative burdens, including:

Complex invoicing and delayed reimbursements that make it difficult for small providers to maintain financial stability.

Regulatory discrepancies, such as different policies on substitute teachers, rest times, and administrative oversight, which often favor larger institutions over home-based providers.

Barriers to participation, including challenges navigating the Maryland EXCELS quality rating system and securing equitable funding.

The Importance of Stakeholder Engagement

For Maryland’s prekindergarten system to be truly inclusive and sustainable, the perspectives of family childcare providers must be actively sought and considered. House Bill 1475



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recognizes the need to analyze the unique barriers and operational realities faced by providers across all settings.

This legislation will identify regulatory disparities that may unintentionally exclude smaller providers. Assess funding mechanisms to ensure they work for all types of early learning environments. Improve administrative processes to reduce unnecessary burdens on providers.
Ensuring an Equitable Future for All Providers and Families

If Maryland is to successfully implement a high-quality, accessible, and diverse early education system, we must ensure that family childcare providers—who serve a critical role in the mixed delivery model—are not left behind. House Bill 1475 provides an opportunity to create a more balanced and effective system, one that values the contributions of all early education providers.

I strongly urge the committee **to support House Bill 1475** and ensure that family childcare providers have a voice in shaping the future of Maryland's prekindergarten system. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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