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**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

February 26, 2025

To: Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair  
Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair  
Ways and Means Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our strong support for **HB1122: Office of Child Care Advisory Council – Membership – Alterations**. This important legislation seeks to expand the membership of the Office of Child Care Advisory Council by adding a representative from the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators, ensuring that the voices of key community stakeholders are included in discussions that shape the future of child care policy in Maryland.

Libraries serve as essential community hubs, providing critical early learning resources, literacy programs, and child care support for families across the state. By including a representative from the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators on the Council, HB1122 strengthens the advisory body's ability to address the diverse needs of children and families, particularly working mothers who rely on accessible child care and early education opportunities.

For Maryland's women—especially those balancing careers and caregiving responsibilities—access to high-quality child care and early education resources is vital. Public libraries play a unique role in supporting this need by offering early literacy programs, after-school support, and safe learning spaces that supplement traditional child care options. Ensuring that library administrators have a seat at the table will help bridge the gap between child care policy and accessible community-based resources, ultimately benefiting working families and supporting children's early development.

By passing HB1122, Maryland takes a significant step in strengthening the collaboration between child care providers, policymakers, and community institutions like public libraries. This legislation will help ensure that the needs of children, families, and caregivers are met with a more inclusive, well-informed approach.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus strongly urges the Committee to issue a favorable report for HB1122. By enhancing representation on the Office of Child Care Advisory Council, we can help create a more supportive, effective, and equitable child care system that benefits Maryland's women, children, and working families.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to improving the lives of Marylanders.