



**Caring For Maryland's Most
Important Natural Resource¹...**

Maryland State Child Care Association

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The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is a non-profit, statewide, professional association incorporated in 1984 to promote the growth and development of child care and learning centers in Maryland. MSCCA has over 4500 members and our members provide care and education for Maryland children and support working families. We believe children are our most important natural resources and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

Testimony Concerning SB 965-Blueprint for Maryland's Future-Revisions

Submitted to: Budget and Taxation Committee

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Favorable with Amendment

March 15, 2021

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Chairman Guzzone, and members of the committees,

The child care provider community is eager to support the State and counties in implementation of quality, affordable prekindergarten to Maryland's most important asset - our children. Diverse delivery among private and public providers is key to the successful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and the law requires a runway to an even split between private and public providers. However, as written this would not require an even split among prekindergarten slots and we propose an amendment that clarifies diverse delivery applies to eligible slots.

Public and private providers have significantly different capacities based on the size and staffing of the provider. Under the current law, a private provider that serves 40 slots and a public provider that serves 20 slots is considered diverse delivery despite the private provider serving double the children. We do not believe that was the intent of the law and request an amendment that clarifies diverse delivery applies to eligible slots, not providers.

Amendment No. 1:

On page 20, line 34, after "prekindergarten" strike "~~providers~~" and replace with "**SLOTS**"

On page 21, line 2, after "private" strike "~~providers~~" and replace with "**SLOTS**"

On page 21, line 4, after "private" strike "~~providers~~" and replace with "**SLOTS**"

On page 21, line 4, after "prekindergarten" strike "~~providers~~" and replace with "**SLOTS**"

On page 21, line 7, after "private" strike "~~providers~~" and replace with "**SLOTS**"

On page 21, line 8, after "prekindergarten" strike "~~providers~~" and replace with "**SLOTS**"

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment.

Sincerely,

Christina Peusch, Executive Director
Maryland State Child Care Association