

Dear Ways and Means committee:

My name is Tiffany Sims and I am a resident and parent residing in your district and I am writing to ask that you vote in favor of HB525 to establish an Outdoor Preschool Licensing pilot. Here are a few reasons why I urge you to support this bill:

- Due to many reasons that I am sure you are aware of, Baltimore City loses many residents to the neighboring counties when families have children because opportunities for quality education for children within the city limits are scarce. This offers an amazing opportunity to entice families to stay, build, and grow within our neighborhood.
- Unfortunately many children in our city do not have outside outlets and opportunities to learn about the environment and all of the things it offers. They miss out on fresh fruits and vegetables and animals that do not typically live within the city limits.
- Because of COVID-19 any outdoor opportunity that we can give our children is better for their emotional and physical safety.

I moved to Maryland from Virginia where I grew up being able to walk out my backdoor and enjoy ample green space. We had a large yard and were able to have many animals and grow our own fruits and vegetables. Most children in Baltimore city do not have this opportunity. A lot of the amazing green spaces that we have in the city go unknown to our neighbors and this is a wonderful way to change that and also promote opportunities for our children to learn. I would love for us to give our kids more opportunities to learn, be inquisitive, and be hands on in ways that allows them to become great thinkers and leaders in the future. We have many issues with our environment and we have to raise our children to care about them and be able to think about solutions.

Please vote in favor of this proposition and I would enjoy hearing your thoughts on the matter as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB525.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Sims

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