**Here is a sample email you can send to you’re the leadership and members of the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee about the alternative pathways for preK educators**

**Tip:** You can reach the entire Committee membership with one email message by using this email address: AA\_EHE@mlis.state.md.us

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

Children experience healthy child development that is crucial for success in school and in life, in family child care, centers, and school-based early childhood programs. Knowing this, the Kirwan Commission and the “Blueprint” legislation stood strong on a mixed delivery approach to delivering preK. That means having preK available in schools AND in child care centers and family child care homes. Parents can choose what’s best for their family, and the whole community benefits from partnering with early childhood educators in child care programs.

We’re seeing first-hand that it is necessary to update the policies to achieve the goals of the Blueprint by creating alternative pathways to be inclusive of community-based providers/programs along with addressing the critical early childhood workforce shortages.

To ensure mixed delivery and meaningful teacher preparation, we must value the strengths and competencies of the existing workforce. We must also address the workforce shortage – we need more people to be able to do this important work.

We must look at the path to certification, or alternative ways to earn that certification. This is an issue of ensuring equity for educators, an opportunity to invest in learning that is happening where children currently are, and a chance to bring in more early childhood educators to the work**.**

**Please reject the House amendments to HB 1219 and pass SB 893 with the preK parts intact, as they are written.**

Parents, young children, and early childhood educators in all settings are counting on this.Thank you for your leadership for our community. Thank you for hearing our voice in laws that affect our work.

Sincerely,

your name

your program name

Home address and zip code

Phone number