Dear (insert title and last name of Delegate or Senator),

My name is (insert your name) and I am (describe your work – in a family child care program, child care center, support organization, etc). I am a part of the Joining Voices advocacy community hosted by Child Resource Connect.

We have been following the work on HB 1441 this legislative session, as each provision directly impacts our programs, our families, and our whole neighborhoods. Implementation mixed delivery preK has been challenging for school districts for a variety of reasons. Community-based early childhood educators know what it takes to participate as a true partner. We must strengthen the laws and the real options so that parents can choose what’s best for their family, and the whole community benefits from partnering with early childhood educators in child care programs.

**Qualifications for teachers**

We appreciate the updated timelines, scenarios and options presented in HB 1441.

**Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund**

We are thrilled to see the provisions of HB 600/SB 500 Education - Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund – Alterations included in HB 1441.

(Optional: insert a little bit about your experience. If you are in a role that hires early childhood educators, how would the ideas of this legislation help? If this had been in place earlier in your career, how would it have helped? How will this help someone you know if it became law?)

**Waivers on meeting mixed delivery expectations**

The new benchmarks of 10% of preK slots in community-based providers should make the mixed delivery waivers obsolete in my county. Still, the school boards still need to be pressed to engage meaningfully at the same time as this work to improve statewide policy.

**Hubs**

We strongly recommend that the bill is amended to name contracting with local Resource Centers or Judy Centers to be the local hubs.

**Ensuring access for all eligible private providers**

We continue to be concerned that although family child care is named as a desired partner in mixed delivery preK, some Maryland leaders continue to put forward ideas that are really structured for the operations of a center and a center’s staff. In the Joining Voices community, child care center leaders and family child care leaders stand together as early childhood education should truly be.

Optional: insert a little bit about your experience.