



## Public Policy Meeting Summary

October 14, 2015

### Paid Maternity Leave Insurance Bill                      Del. Ariana Kelly (D-16, Montgomery Co.)

- Federal and State laws require employers with 15 or more employees to provide *unpaid* family and medical leave.
- Immediate maternal return to work after the birth of a child has detrimental effects on both mothers and babies.
- Del. Kelly's bill would create a State administered family and medical leave insurance program, funded by a small payroll tax paid by employees (estimated at \$35/year, consistent with costs in California, New Jersey and Rhode Island) so new mothers could use their leave without disastrous economic consequences.

### KRA and ELA Updates from MSDE                      Candy Miller

- The initial implementation of Maryland's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) found 47% of Maryland's 2014-2015 kindergarten students demonstrated the skills and behaviors needed to fully participate in the kindergarten curriculum.
- As in previous years:
  - significant achievement gaps were seen for children from low-income families, English language learners, and students with disabilities; and
  - children enrolled in non-public nursery school, regulated child care and public pre-K in the year immediately before kindergarten had higher readiness skills than children in home or informal care.
- For the 2015-2016 school year the KRA was shortened by 20% based on feedback from kindergarten teachers, with 50% of the assessment based on the teacher's observation of the student and 50% based on performance.

Announcement: The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Sandra J. Skolnik Lecture on Early Childhood Education and Advocacy will be held on Monday, November 30, 2015 at 4:30 PM at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Registration information is available on the [MFN website](#).

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 1:00 PM**

*Note: We will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in November.*

*Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> is the Veterans Day holiday.*