

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 14-0145R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Holton, Scott, Branch, Mosby, Clarke,  
Reisinger, Stokes, Cole, Kraft, Middleton, Curran, Spector, Welch

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2014

Assigned to: Education and Youth Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Finance, Department of Housing and  
Community Development, Mayor's Office of Human Services

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Proposed Elimination of**  
3 **Housing and Community Development's Childcare Program**

4 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from the Department of Housing and Community  
5 Development (HCD), the Department of Finance, and the Mayor's Office of Human Services  
6 to appear before the City Council to discuss the proposed elimination of HCD's successful  
7 half-century old childcare program, and the impact that the proposed elimination would have  
8 on longtime City employees and at-risk families.

9 **Recitals**

10 Baltimore's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has operated a  
11 childcare program designed to help low-income families take advantage of opportunities to  
12 advance themselves through education or work for the past half century. Currently, 30 City  
13 employees care for 130 to 160 children from mostly very low-income families at centers on  
14 Baltimore's East and West sides. Families in the program pay for childcare on a sliding scale  
15 based on their income level.

16 Although the program is well regarded and has helped many young families through the  
17 decades, its current generation of parents was recently shocked and outraged to learn that it has  
18 been slated for closure. Parents have been protesting the proposal to "consolidate" HCD's  
19 childcare program with the privately operated but government financed Head Start program by  
20 eliminating all funding for the HCD program and transferring it to Head Start operators to pay for  
21 extended Head Start hours.

22 This plan assumes that children in the HCD program will be able to enter Head Start facilities  
23 instead, but there are no guarantees that Head Start slots will actually be found for them, and the  
24 eligibility criteria for the two programs are not identical. Further, even if slots are found for the  
25 displaced children, the closure of the HCD facilities, intentionally located near educational  
26 institutions and employers, could leave struggling parents with no childcare options near their  
27 schools or jobs.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 Equally troubling, this plan would eliminate the positions of 30 longtime City employees,  
2 mostly teachers who have devoted much of their working lives to educating our littlest and most  
3 vulnerable residents, without any realistic prospect of finding alternate positions for them.

4 Ending a successful program that families rely on in this manner in order to transfer funds to  
5 outside providers raises serious questions about the potential impacts on our at-risk communities  
6 and dedicated City workers. These questions deserve to be discussed publicly, through a hearing  
7 before the City Council, before any final decisions are made

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
9 Council calls on representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development,  
10 the Department of Finance, and the Mayor's Office of Human Services to appear before it to  
11 discuss the proposed elimination of HCD's successful half-century old childcare program, and  
12 the impact that the proposed elimination would have on longtime City employees and at-risk  
13 families.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
15 Housing Commissioner, the Director of Finance, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Human  
16 Services, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.