

## SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

### **Item 6: Department of Early Learning and Care Systems Alignment**

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee

From: Education Subcommittee

Carrier: Senator Frederick

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The Education Subcommittee heard a request from the Department of Early Learning and Care for retroactive approval to submit a federal grant application for the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five program to support systems alignment and integration work.

The Department of Early Learning and Care applied for a \$7.5 million grant to continue the previous systems integration work with an external focus on how families and providers navigate the larger system. This included reducing duplicative processes, aligning policies, and improving data systems. If awarded, the funding will be available for use during the 2026 calendar year. A 30% state match is also required, which the Department of Early Learning and Care can meet with existing agency resources.

The Education Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means retroactively approve the submission of a federal grant application by the Department of Early Learning and Care to the U.S. Administration for Children and Families, in the amount of \$7,479,464, to support strategic systems alignment in early learning.