



## **Testimony on HB831 - Common Ownership Communities and Zoning Authorities – Operation of Family Child Care Homes – Limitations**

### **Position: Favorable**

My name is Ruby Daniels, and I am honored to serve as the current President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA), representing over 4,000 family child care programs in Maryland. Today, I am submitting this testimony in support of HB831, which addresses the challenges faced by family child care programs in expanding to large family child care homes.

One of the pressing issues that our members encounter is the impediment to the expansion of family child care programs licensed for 8 children to large family child care homes licensed for 12. While certain counties in Maryland permit the expansion of commercial large family child care homes, we have observed disparities, particularly in Howard County, where existing city ordinances, zoning regulations, and homeowners associations hinder such expansion.

The inability to expand in Howard County is a significant concern for our members, as it restricts their ability to meet the growing demand for quality child care services. We believe that every family child care program, regardless of its location, should have equal opportunities for expansion, ensuring the availability of safe and nurturing environments for children.

It is noteworthy to mention that in Colorado, family child care homes seeking expansion to large family child care homes are considered residential rather than commercial. This classification recognizes the importance of these homes as integral parts of residential communities while accommodating their need for expansion. We encourage the committee to consider similar provisions in Maryland to create a balanced and supportive environment for family child care providers.

HB831 presents a valuable opportunity to address these challenges and create a standardized framework across Maryland counties. By removing barriers to expansion and ensuring uniform regulations, we can foster the growth of



**Maryland State  
Family Child Care  
Association**  
www.msfccca.org

family child care programs and enhance the accessibility of high-quality child care services for families across the state.

We urge the committee to support HB831 and work towards a solution that empowers family child care programs to expand responsibly, contributing positively to the well-being of Maryland's children and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruby Daniels  
President  
Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA)