



**Caring For Maryland's Most  
Important Natural Resource™**

## **Maryland State Child Care Association**

2810 Carrollton Road  
Annapolis, Md. 21403  
Phone: (410) 820-9196  
Email: [info@mscca.org](mailto:info@mscca.org)  
[www.mscca.org](http://www.mscca.org)

---

*The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is a non-profit, statewide, professional association incorporated in 1984 to promote the growth and development of child care and learning centers in Maryland. MSCCA has over 5000 members working in the field of child care/early childhood education. We believe children are our most important natural resource and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.*

**Testimony: HB 831 Common Ownership Communities and Zoning Authorities - Operation of Family  
Child Care Homes - Limitations Hearing  
Submitted to: Environment and Transportation Committee  
February 20, 2024**

MSCCA enthusiastically supports HB 83. Kudos and thanks to sponsor Delegate Jessica Feldmark and many co-sponsors for their support for children, families, and the child care community.

Family child care programs are essential to the workforce and communities. Family child care is wonderful, home away from home, intimate early childhood education practiced in a residential setting. HB 831 establishes the distinction of family child care as a residential and preferred activity. Family child care is conducted in homes and has been critical in supporting working families in developmentally appropriate settings.

Many areas of the state have child care deserts where child care, especially family child care is needed. Maryland is a very culturally diverse state with many immigrant family child care providers who are trusted members of the community who speak the language and embrace the culture of children they educate and families they proudly serve. Maryland must support residential licensed child care options and decrease the unnecessary restrictions outlined in HB 831.

This important legislation addresses the restrictions related to operating or starting a family child care program found in leases, articles of incorporation or bylaws of cooperative housing corporations. We understand the necessity for covenants and bylaws for our communities, however, HB 831 is comprehensive legislation which ensures family child care providers adhere to the strict staff child ratios and all the Maryland State Department of Education COMAR regulations related to family child care. Additionally, the bill speaks to family child care contributing fair fees and requirements for liability insurance.

Child care is an important economic and equity imperative and child care providers are the backbone of society. HB 831 recognizes and addresses the barriers for family child care programs in residences to conduct their programs successfully. It also supports the growth of family child care in our neighborhoods and communities as they are the fabric of family support, while also driving the economy.

MSCCA asks for a favorable report.