

THE COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S CHILDREN

Our Mission: To combine and amplify the power of organizations and citizens working together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We strive to secure budgetary and public policy resources to make meaningful and measurable improvements in safety, permanence, and wellbeing.



SB0765 - Out-of-Home Placement Providers - Individuals Enrolled in
Higher Education and Vocational Training Programs
House Appropriations Committee
March 25, 2025

Position: **SUPPORT**

The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children is a consortium of organizations and individuals formed in 1996 who are concerned about the care of Maryland's most vulnerable children and work together to promote meaningful child welfare reform. CPMC urges a favorable report on SB0765 - Out-of-Home Placement Providers - Individuals Enrolled in Higher Education and Vocational Training Programs.¹

SB0765 seeks to clarify that any limitations on the number of children and youth residing in an out-of-home placement shall not prevent a college or vocational student returning to that foster care home during school breaks and holidays, a temporary closure of the institution, or a temporary leave of absence. Foster youth should not be concerned that the decision to attend college or vocational school means risks losing one's placement in their foster home. Currently, if a student were in the situation of not having space available in the foster family home, a waiver process can be initiated but with no guarantee of approval. All higher education and vocational training students should be able to pursue their academic goals without threats of housing instability.

It is for these reasons that the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children **urges a favorable report** on SB0765 - Out-of-Home Placement Providers - Individuals Enrolled in Higher Education and Vocational Training Programs.

¹ Members of CPMC represented by this written testimony include Catholic Charities of Baltimore, Center for Hope, Child Justice, Citizens Review Board for Children, Court Appointed Special Advocates (MD CASA), Court Appointed Special Advocates (Baltimore County), MD Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) Maryland Children's Alliance, National Association of Social Workers – MD, and State Council on Child Abuse & Neglect (SCCAN)