

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.



**SB0833 – Department of Human Services - Study on Private
Treatment Foster Care Homes
House Appropriations Committee
March 26, 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 SB0833 – Department of Human Services - Study on Private Treatment Foster Care Homes.**¹

SB0833 recognizes the challenges of accessing vital resources among Maryland families and seeks to create equitable ways for foster care parents to access subsidies, such as childcare scholarships, to meet their needs. Childcare is often a significant hurdle, with many families facing financial barriers that limit their ability to access high quality services. Those who open their homes as foster care parents are no different, and with the rising cost of childcare, the standard stipends are not covering these expenses. This is especially true if the child needs therapeutic childcare, which is even more expensive for families to afford.

We support the amended version of HB0833 as it supports the original intention of the legislation and aims to bring to light ways the Department of Human Services can be helpful to private treatment foster care providers. As advocates for child safety and wellbeing, we encourage any assistance the state can give to help more homes open their doors to these children and keep them open by offering continual support and stability as caregivers, such as childcare, appropriate funding levels, and other support services. The study is a good starting place of determining increased ways to help foster families to allocate resources more effectively to meet the growing comprehensive needs of foster children and allow these young people to thrive.

It is for these reasons that the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children **urges a favorable report on SB0833 – Department of Human Services - Study on Private Treatment Foster Care Homes.**

¹ Members of CPMC represented by this written testimony include Catholic Charities of Baltimore, Center for Hope, Child Justice. Court Appointed Special Advocates (MD CASA), Court Appointed Special Advocates (Baltimore County), Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY), MD Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Children's Alliance, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, National Association of Social Workers – MD.