



House Ways and Means Committee

**HB 396: Residential Child Care Programs – Education of Children and Training of  
Child and Youth Care Practitioners**

**February 11, 2026**

**Letter of Information**

The Arc Maryland is a statewide advocacy organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We work to protect and advance the rights of people with disabilities and to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need.

Our partners at The Arc Montgomery County provide model inclusive childcare at their KFICCC Center and have done so for decades. While we believe this system will enhance criminal background checking and employer notification of changes to an employee's status, ultimately leading to better protection of children, we have questions about how the central unit would operate with efficiency, manage appeals, and resolve concerns/complaints.

Specifically:

- Will the new centralization of background checks eliminate the need for multiple tests in one year (ie. Is the check still specific to a facility, if not and a person leaves a position after a month to move to another facility, do they need a new check?)
- How long will the background check results be stored in the system?
- Should we consider eliminating the school age minimum entirely as opposed to lowering the trigger from 3 to 2?
- Will there be reporting and oversight to ensure notification timeliness?
- Will there be an appeals process for situations when an applicant contests the results if the background check?

We are hopeful these questions will be answered in the development phase of the new system and answers conveyed to stakeholders prior to implementation.

Thank you!

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