

HB0635_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#0635 – FAVORABLE

Child Care Facilities – Criminal History Records Check – Requirement

TO: Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and members of the Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0635, Child Care Facilities – Criminal History Records Check – Requirement

Criminal acts in Maryland childcare facilities, including physical/sexual abuse, neglect, and endangerment, result in immediate enforcement actions, such as license suspension, revocation, or criminal prosecution. Recent cases involved staff arrested for assaulting children, with charges including felony child abuse and misdemeanor assault.¹

Recent Incidents and Consequences

- **Documented Abuse:** A daycare worker in Oxen Hill was charged with child abuse and assault after recording themselves harming children.
- **Felony Charges:** A Worcester County employee was indicted on 90 violations, including felony child abuse, after video showed injuries to an infant and other children.
- **Systemic Failures:** Reports have highlighted issues with unlicensed facilities, requiring urgent interventions, such as emergency suspensions, to protect children.

This bill will add restrictions and background checks for anyone employed in child care to ensure Maryland’s children are better protected from criminals who prey on these children.

This bill will accomplish that goal by requiring individuals who will have direct contact with children in certain child care facilities to submit to a criminal history records check; requiring the State Department of Education to establish a centralized unit for the processing and management of information about criminal history records checks; altering the applicability of probationary employment qualifications for first-time child care teachers in child care centers in the State that serve children who are at least 2 years old; etc.

One individual committing crimes against a child is one too many and this bill will assist Maryland in protecting our children and preventing employment of individuals who might commit crimes against them.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB0635.

¹ Google AI Search “criminal acts in child care facilities in Maryland”