



February 16, 2026

Testimony in Support of House Bill 635 – Child Care Facilities – Criminal History Records Check - Requirement

We respectfully urge the Ways and Means Committee to make a favorable report on HB 635 – Child Care Facilities – Criminal History Records Check – Requirement as we believe it will create efficiencies and ease the burden on child care providers without compromising the safety of young children.

As Montgomery County's locally legislated coordinating entity, we regularly engage in community conversation with educators and child care providers. Since our creation, educators and administrators have brought up their frustration with the background check process required by the Maryland State Department of Education. They have reported long processing and response times, disparity in treatment by different licensing specialists, and general experience of errors. These experiences have caused delays in the start dates of new hires and the inability to use substitute teachers when needed – both of which have negative impacts on the already overburdened and under supported early care and education workforce.

Proposals in HB635, including the creation of a centralized unit for processing and management, will streamline and improve the process and experience. At a point in time where the child care industry is in crisis, we need to do everything we can to support child care educators and providers.

Submitted on behalf of the Children's Opportunity Alliance by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Jahromi".

Laura Jahromi, Manager, Strategic Initiatives
The Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance
1801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852 | 301-450-1871 |
laura@mocochildren.org

The Montgomery County [Children's Opportunity Alliance](https://www.mocochildren.org) is a locally legislated Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity that connects our community to build an equitable, accessible, high-quality, and sustainable early childhood system that narrows disparities and puts young children on a path to reach their greatest potential.