



**Testimony Concerning HB 1550 – Child Care Providers –  
Notice of Allegations of Child Abuse or Neglect (Aiden’s Law)**

**Submitted to the House Judiciary Committee**

**March 5, 2020**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit association advocating on behalf of approximately 5400 registered family child care providers in Maryland that are an important part of the child care delivery system. Registered family child care providers in Maryland care for a significant number of Maryland’s children and typically work alone in mixed-age group settings. MSFCCA believes HB 1550 is an important step in protecting children in child care, however there are a few issues we would like clarified.

HB 1550, states that a child care provider will be required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to all parents and/or guardians of children in a child care program within 24 hours after having knowledge of an incident. If the incident or allegation of an incident proves to be untrue or is found to have no negligence on the part of the provider, will the notice become part of a providers permanent record and be accessible to potential clients on [www.checkccmd.org](http://www.checkccmd.org)? Child care is a reputation driven profession and an alleged incident that is false or unfounded can ruin a business.

What is the definition of *Abuse & Neglect* as outlined in the legislation? Will the rationale for group parent notification be decided by the investigating authority? We see this being an important issue if the provider feels the allegation is untrue and may damage the reputation of the child care. They would rightfully be concerned about sharing the information. Will the provider be in violation of any current laws that protect the privacy of minors when informing other families about an incident? Finally, what will be the format of the *notification*, will it be a standard form?

Maryland child care providers are already mandatory reporters and take that responsibility very seriously. That is the reason specific details in this legislation are important for our support. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh-in on this legislation. For any further questions feel free to contact Rebecca Hancock, the MSFCCA Vice President of Public Policy at (301) 934-1795.