

Mr. Chairman, Madame Vice Chair, my friends of the Judiciary Committee,

I am here today in strong support of HB1550. This bill would require that if an instance of abuse allegedly occurs in a daycare setting, that when Mandatory Reporting is triggered, a letter, phone call or verbal notification MUST be sent home to all the parents and guardians of the childcare to alert them that an incident has been reported and to give parents information for mental health support in their community should their child also need help, whether they may be another victim themselves or may have witnessed alleged abuse.

I want to be clear, parents and guardians have a right to know what has happened to their children, witnessed by their children and what is going on in their child's daycare center. When abuse occurs in one of the places that we as parents trust and frankly pay to keep our children safe, we have a right to know.

This notification will not interfere with any police investigation. It merely allows the family of the child to know something has been alleged to have occurred. I am open to amendments to insure that the intent of the bill is what occurs.

Delegate Lauren Arian