



Testimony Concerning HB 392
“Family Child Care Homes, Large Family Child Care Homes, and Child Care Centers - Early Childhood Screening and Assistance”
Submitted to the Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee
March 25, 2021

Position: Oppose

Maryland Family Network (MFN) has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and other supports for children and families in Maryland. As the largest and oldest statewide child advocacy organization in Maryland, MFN is strongly committed to ensuring the health and well-being of children across our state.

MFN has long recognized the importance of early identification of developmental delays, and therefore supports the intent of HB 392 “Family Child Care Homes, Large Family Child Care Homes, and Child Care Centers - Early Childhood Screening and Assistance,” which would promote early childhood developmental screenings for children under age three. However, there are ongoing concerns about the bill as drafted, especially with regard to resources, screener qualifications, and implementation. Given these considerations, MFN respectfully opposes the bill in its current form.

As written, the legislation would establish a mandate without providing resources or training to the child care providers who would be screening young children. For this reason, MFN asks for an unfavorable report for HB 392.