

Favorable Testimony

HB0873: State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals – Certification – Revisions

Chairwoman Shane E. Pendergrass and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, I am thankful for the opportunity to testify *in support* of House Bill 0837. This important piece of legislation proposes requiring the State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals to maintain an electronic roster of all individuals certified by the Board. This electronic roster would then be made available for verifying certification on the Board's website. If an individual does not have access to the Board's website, they may contact the Board to verify a certification. Additionally, this Bill will alter the language used in renewal notices for Child Care Programs to facilitate easier access to renewal.

The State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals' mission is to protect children living in Maryland's residential child care programs and to promote quality of care in the field of Residential Child Care. By requiring this Board to maintain an electronic roster of their certified individuals, Marylanders have better data to transparently research whether a Residential Child Care Program is meeting standards of regulation. This would be a protective measure to ensure Marylanders know exactly who they are leaving their children in the care of. The State of Maryland thrives when we have increased transparency between our Boards and our constituents. HB0873 creates a unique opportunity to ensure Marylanders know that the Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners in our State are continually meeting Board expectations, as well as knowing when a Program is not certified by this Board with a simple search. When a Maryland parent is deciding if the Residential Program their child is being involved with is safe, they can easily use the State Board website to verify this information. As a proud father of two, I know the peace of mind this Bill will provide Maryland families is paramount. This is why I encourage a favorable report on HB0873: State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals – Certification – Revisions. Thank you.

Delegate Nick Charles,

Nick Charles