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### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB701 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT – TRAINING

Modeled after language already in Health Occupations Article, 1-801 in sequence, this bill passed the House almost unanimously in 2019 (135-1). In 2020, **HB701** passed both Chambers with the language as currently proposed. At a time when we have never been more aware of the prevalence of child abuse, training is so IMPORTANT. **Given all the current stressors and requirements to stay inside, never has there been a greater need for Child Abuse and Neglect Training.** Resources for such training and the conduit for that information remains a cornerstone in the detection and prevention of child abuse. Trainings on how to recognize and report child abuse will expose monsters like Dr. Nassar who thrive in an atmosphere of misinformation, which enables them to operate with minimal chances of detection. Never has it been clearer that training is imperative as some of his horrific acts of child abuse took place with the parents in the room!!!!

Child abuse experts know firsthand the impact that such abuse of our children has on society as a whole. More importantly, they also understand the importance of appropriate training to improve the outcomes for child victims. Training for mandated reporters must be made available to assure timely and appropriate reporting.

#### WHAT WE KNOW

Many health care professionals have been incorrectly instructed on how to report abuse. Many health care professionals are misinformed about their responsibilities as Mandated Reporters. Some do not know what to look for or how to react when abuse is detected.

#### PREVENTION IS IMPERATIVE – KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

**Let's support and pass HB701 and make such training available and easy to find for our mandated reporters and others who work with children.**

Let's partner with our Health Care Professionals and give them the tools they need as the "first responders" for our children. They are our most valuable and irreplaceable asset as Marylanders.

The BCAC (Baltimore Child Abuse Center) understands and supports this important legislation as well as the overwhelming support from most of our health care policy organizations.