

CRAIG J. ZUCKER  
Legislative District 14  
Montgomery County

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Chair, Education, Business and  
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Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker  
Senate Bill – 592 – State Child Welfare System - Reporting  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
1:00pm  
Position: SUPPORT

Good afternoon Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support** of **Senate Bill 592 – State Child Welfare System – Reporting**.

Maryland's foster care system exists to protect and care for Maryland's children in a manner that keeps them safe and healthy and to promote their well-being.

Senate Bill 592 requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to report the following:

1. Incidences of abuse or neglect of a child who, in the immediately preceding 24 months, was not removed from their home following an investigation that found indicated or unsubstantiated abuse or neglect
2. The number of children in the custody of a local department or child placement agency who have a sibling in the custody of a different local department of child placement agency
3. The health and mental health care provided, as designated
4. The number of children not enrolled in school for more than one week immediately following a change in placement
5. The number of children in an institution of postsecondary education, apprenticeship, or adult education program.

This legislation requires The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to publish each annual report on its website and maintain the confidentiality of children and foster youth, ensuring that no personally identifiable information is disclosed. MSDE must disaggregate the information by county, age, gender, race, and ethnicity. This legislation is important in helping to provide data that will help ensure that we are properly tracking the great care our state is taking for this important population.

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 592. Thank you for your kind consideration.