

March 1, 2022

**Testimony Concerning Opposition to HB 1382:
Children – Family Child Care Homes and the Chief Medical Examiner –
Use of Video Recording Devices and Reports**

Submitted to the House Health & Government Operations Committee

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Prince George's Child Resource Center envisions vibrant, healthy communities where individuals and families care, support, and advocate for each other and invest in creating opportunities for children to develop strong, successful life paths. The Resource Center has been working tirelessly since 1990 to support both child care providers in their efforts to strive for quality in their child care programs, and parents as they seek child care where their children can thrive.

Over the years, and with even greater intensity in the last two years, we have seen the evidence mount: access to child care is crucial, the child care workforce is crucial, and the quality of child care matters. We also know that quality does not just happen. Quality takes effort, commitment, and investment. We support and thank the community of providers who demonstrate this commitment. We thank them for the important work they do every day.

If any child care programs are struggling, they need support, not video camera footage. Please oppose HB 1382. We share the concerns about cost burden and privacy stated by other leaders in the field in their testimony. Further, we simply do not see it achieving any goals. Instead, we should focus on good monitoring and meaningful support.

A child care license is not just a piece of paper. A child care license means a provider meets basic standards for health and safety; it means expectations of training; it means this is a profession across any age being served whether it is babies or school-age or in between. It means there have been background checks for all adults living in the family child care home or employed as assistants. It means inspections from licensing staff, as well as the fire marshal and health department. It means the caregiver is qualified for the role they play in a family's life.

We urge your support for legislation to help ensure a thriving child care system in Maryland, but HB 1382 is not one of those ideas that will help. **We urge you to oppose HB 1382.** Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to talk about ideas for supporting child care in Maryland.

