



Testimony Concerning HB 1382
“Children – Family Child Care Homes and the Chief Medical Examiner – Use of Video
Recording Devices and Reports (Bexley’s Law)”
Submitted to the House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 3, 2022

Position: Oppose

Maryland Family Network (MFN) respectfully opposes HB 1382, which would place onerous new requirements on family child care providers, raise complicated privacy issues, and arguably have no positive impact on children’s health and safety.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and early childhood education as well as other supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on child care policy and are strongly committed to ensuring that children, along with their parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.

MFN is also strongly committed to ensuring the safety of child care environments. Along with our allies in the child care provider community, we have long advocated a robust set of regulations to ensure that providers are well trained in child development and the best health and safety practices, undergo criminal background checks and child protective services record checks (along with other members of the provider’s household), open their doors to inspections, and comply with a host of other regulatory provisions designed specifically to protect the children in their care.

We believe that despite its intentions, HB 1382 would not materially enhance children’s health and safety. Cameras cannot prevent accidents. Bad actors are thankfully quite rare in child care programs, but to the extent that they exist, the presence of a camera or cameras in one or more rooms would not keep incidents from occurring elsewhere. Moreover, the large-scale intrusiveness and significant financial burdens this bill would impose could have the unintended consequence of driving child care providers underground, thereby undermining the protections that regulations currently afford.

HB 1382 is unreasonable, unaffordable, and most of all unlikely to achieve the goal we all share of ensuring that children are safe when being cared for outside their homes. For these reasons, MFN urges your unfavorable consideration.