



**Caring For Maryland's Most
Important Natural Resource™**

Maryland State Child Care Association

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The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is a non-profit, statewide, professional association incorporated in 1984 to promote the growth and development of child care and learning centers in Maryland. MSCCA has over 5000 members working in the field of early childhood. We believe children are our most important natural resource and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

Testimony: HB 1382

**Children-Family Child Care Homes and the Chief Medical Examiner-Use of Video Recording Devices and Reports
(Bexley's Law)**

Position: Oppose

Submitted to: Health and Government Operations

March 3, 2022

MSCCA supports and advocates to uphold the extensive health and safety child care regulations in COMAR, child care statute and all licensed, legal child care. Maryland is comprised of more than 7,000 child care small businesses, which more than 5,000 are registered, licensed family child care professionals successfully caring for and educating more than 40,000 children.

Maryland has some of the most stringent child care regulations and statute in the country. All child care providers, family living in a family child care home, volunteers are required to go through and pass federal and state criminal background checks as well as child protective services/child abuse and neglect record checks as important professional safeguards for children and peace of mind for families. Child care programs/providers are regularly inspected by licensing authority at MSDE, including unannounced inspections as all regulatory measures are in place to protect children in licensed child care. Additionally, child care providers are mandated reporters for child abuse and neglect and take their professional responsibilities seriously.

This bill seems to require cameras located in all parts of child care home with no purpose or timeline for families to review and casts doubts on an otherwise very reputable, safe system of licensed care in our state. Additionally, by adding the medical examiner review of cloud-based videos seems to add another layer of blame as children are exposed to many places and experiences that are not on camera which could be attributed to cause of death.

Children are changed, diapered numerous times a day which would now be captured in cloud footage. This creates many concerns. Cameras do not prohibit accidents and those seeking to do harm would be aware of cameras, as the bill indicates and unfortunately may find another area of home to remain out of camera footage.

The legislation is onerous, causes a significant financial burden for the small business and will lead to more unlicensed, illegal care where data shows many negative issues occur, which is why we have rigorous regulation and laws governing child care industry.

HB 1382 will not ensure blame nor necessarily achieve the goal of keeping children any more safe than current protections in place and it may have unintended consequences that is more harmful to children.

MSCCA urges an unfavorable report.