

MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D
Legislative District 43
Baltimore City

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair
Joint Committee on Ending
Homelessness

Chair
Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



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SB133 - State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals –
Certification – Membership and Official Seal

Testimony of Senator Mary Washington

March 24, 2022

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Health and
Government Operations Committee,

**SB133 will amend the number of Board members on the State Board for the
Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals from 12 to 11.**

This change will allow the Board to have an odd number of voting members, thereby
making it easier to achieve a majority of votes on significant legislative and
administrative matters that impact the quality of services provided to the youth being
served, without State agencies' conflict of interest.

The current even number of Board members make voting problematic, especially when
those members who work for other State agencies frequently abstain from voting,
making it difficult to obtain a majority.

The State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals
currently consists of 12 members. Six of those members are appointed by different
secretaries of several state agencies involved in the licensing and monitoring of
residential childcare programs. These agencies are the Department of
Health/Behavioral Health Administration and Developmental Disabilities
Administration, Department of Human Services, Department of Juvenile Services,
Maryland Department of Education, and the State Subcabinet member.

The remaining six members are appointed by the Governor. Three are Residential Child
Care Program Administrators (RCCPA), one is a Residential Child and Youth Care
Professional (RCYCP) and two are consumers. **SB 133 will remove the subcabinet**

member, assigned to the Department of Disabilities, an agency that does not provide licensing and monitoring of residential children services. The removal of this member will allow for the board to achieve majority votes on vital matters that significantly impact services provided to youth served without interference.

This legislation will also eliminate the requirement for Residential Child and Youth Care Professional (RCYCP) to adopt an official seal.

This change will make the Board as effective and efficient in their work as possible. The Residential Child Care Program Professionals have requested this change to be able to make decisions more effectively and continue on with their important work to ensure that Maryland's children receive high quality care in residential child care programs.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 133.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Washington", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Mary Washington
Maryland 43rd District