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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1169 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

This bill, as recently amended,¹ requires the Maryland Department of Health, through Maryland CHAMP (Child Abuse Medical Providers), to provide each health occupations board that is authorized under current law to take action against an applicant, licensee, certificate holder, registrant, or permit holder who knowingly fails to report suspected child abuse, as required by current law, with a list of generally recommended courses on the obligation to report abuse and neglect and the identification of abused and neglected children. Each board must (1) post the information required for a prospective student to enroll for one or more of the recommended courses prominently on the board's website; (2) provide information about the courses to specified health care professionals at the time of license renewal; or (3) advertise the availability of the recommended courses in the newsletters and any other media published by the board. These provisions do not apply to a board that requires licensees, certificate holders, registrants, or permit holders to obtain continuing education on the identification and reporting of abused and neglected children.

Child abuse experts know firsthand the impact that such abuse of our children has on society as a whole. More importantly, they understand how imperative it is to have appropriate and up-to-date training to improve the outcomes for child victims. Training for mandated reporters to recognize the abuse and then how to report what is observed is the next best step in protecting our most valuable asset... our children.

CHAMP weighs in on HB1169 saying they are willing and able to search for and review potential training materials. Even more notable, CHAMP is willing to modify and update materials to meet reporting requirements in Maryland as needed. This is the most exciting part of their support... they are willing to

modify and update materials as needed! We cannot ask for better support and ultimately the provision of greater protections for the children.

Finally the Maryland Health Department Board of Physicians clearly supports HB1169 stating, “[T]he Board is happy to provide information about these courses on its website as required by this bill.”

Please enter a favorable report for HOUSE BILL 1169ⁱⁱ The voting reports of two prior years are attached as well as the amendment and bill reprint. Let’s get it through this time!

ⁱ Amendment attached

ⁱⁱ 2018- HB 600 - Voting Record attached
2019 HB 1252 Voting Record attached