



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 1093
Election Law – Candidate Expenditures – Caregiving Services**

This legislation would give political candidates the ability to use campaign funds to pay for dependent care expenses that they incur as a direct result of their campaign activity. This will allow more Marylanders to run for office, regardless of their personal finances, and would help more women and caregivers of young children and people with disabilities to serve in elected office.

In 2018, the Federal Election Commission unanimously ruled that federal campaign committees could pay for campaign-related child care expenses.¹ Over 50 federal candidates, Democrats and Republicans, have since availed themselves of this ruling and have spent campaign funds on child care.² These numbers will only continue to grow as more parents, particularly women, seek office.

In 2019, the Maryland State Board of Elections released an advisory opinion allowing for candidates in Maryland to use campaign funds for child care expenses.³ While this was a positive step forward, the advisory opinion left out families who have dependents who are not young children, such as adult dependents with a disability or intense medical needs.

Nationwide, 15 states have passed legislation to allow the use of campaign funds for dependent care.⁴

This bill would codify the State Board of Elections' 2019 advisory opinion on use of campaign funds to pay for campaign-related child care expenses into law. It would also expand the allowable caregiving services by including expenses related to the care of persons with disabilities or a medical condition.

¹ "AO 2018-06: Use of campaign funds for childcare expenses." Federal Election Commission.
<https://www.fec.gov/updates/ao-2018-06-use-campaign-funds-childcare-expenses/>

² "Campaign Funds for Childcare." Vote Mama Foundation.
<https://www.votemamafoundation.org/cfcc-report>

³ "Child Care Expenses." Maryland State Board of Elections.
https://elections.maryland.gov/campaign_finance/documents/childCareexpenses.pdf

⁴ Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, and West Virginia.

The bill makes clear that dependent care expenses have to have an electoral purpose in order for them to be permissible. For example, a candidate hires a babysitter to care for their children while they attend a fundraiser or to knock on doors. This expenditure would be allowed as it would not have occurred but for the candidacy and the event has a clear nexus to enhancing the success of the candidacy.

HB 1093 is a commonsense measure that will help Marylanders to run for office, regardless of their personal finances and family situations.