



Testimony Concerning HB 136
“Child Support Enforcement - Occupational and Recreational Licenses - Taxpayer
Identification Number”
Submitted to the House Judiciary Committee
January 26, 2023

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports HB 136. This bill would permit prospective child care providers (among other applicants for professional licenses) without a Social Security Number (SSN) to use instead their Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for the purpose of obtaining a license from the Maryland State Department of Education. Licensed child care offers many advantages to unlicensed care for children, families, and child care providers. Permitting the use of ITINs will likely remove a significant barrier to licensing in many underserved communities.

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 working parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.

Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) regulations do not require child care providers to have an SSN. Nor do they apply immigration restrictions to providers receiving CCDBG funds. Some states require licensed providers to have an SSN, while others allow providers to provide an ITIN. Currently California, Massachusetts, and New York do not require an SSN for licensing.

All children in child care need safe and healthy environments, and they need providers who are trained to understand how children grow and learn—training that is embedded in the licensing process. Despite intensive provider recruitment efforts in many parts of the state over the years, we know there are still large numbers of people caring for children who are operating outside licensing regulations, in some cases because they lack SSNs. The lack of licenses also means that these providers (and by extension, the families they serve) are unable to benefit from supports such the Child Care Scholarship Program, Maryland EXCELS, and other professional development opportunities.

MFN advocates policies that encourage the expansion of both family child care and large family child care programs by recruiting and supporting new providers and working to retain career providers. Allowing for an ITIN would be one way to encourage additional child care providers to become licensed, to the benefit of themselves and those they serve.

We urge a favorable report.

