



Testimony Concerning HB 1314
“Corporations and Associations - Annual Reports - Filing Fees (Right to Start Act)”
Submitted to the House Economic Matters Committee
February 5, 2024

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports HB 1314, which would dedicate revenue to certain child care related activities.

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

Government funding has a profound impact on programs and services critical to young children and families. Even the best-conceived public policies that aim to promote access, affordability, and quality in child care and family support services can be undermined by inadequate allocations of resources. Funding streams at the federal, state, and local levels all have a role to play.

Throughout its history, MFN has focused on budget issues affecting children. This history demonstrates that securing public funds for programs serving young children and families can pose immense challenges, even in favorable economic climates. In periods of economic difficulties, these challenges are amplified significantly. Innovative early childhood financing mechanisms such as the one proposed by HB 1314 could be part of a solution.

MFN respectfully urges favorable consideration of HB 1314.

