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FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

THE Y IN CENTRAL MARYLAND  
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Dear Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

The Y in Central Maryland (The Y) is submitting this written testimony to oppose House Bill 1254, particularly the proposed amendment subjecting the 45-day requirement in the bill to the availability of existing resources within the central repository and the Maryland Department of Human Services. We believe this language in particular further opens the door to reporting delays which jeopardizes the ability to maintain adequate staffing, particularly in cases where positions need to be filled as quickly as possible.

The implementation of this amendment would undoubtedly lead to a myriad of adverse consequences for our community members, the childcare workforce, and childcare providers. We urge the committee to consider the following points:

- **Undue Hardship on Community Members and Childcare Workforce:** The demand for childcare services in Central Maryland far exceeds the current supply. By extending the wait time for practitioners to be cleared to start providing childcare services, this amendment would further exacerbate the issue, limiting access to essential childcare workers to programs for families in need.
- **Financial Burden on Childcare Providers:** The cost associated with paying candidates during the extended waiting period for clearance cannot be absorbed by childcare providers alone. Passing these costs onto consumers would create an additional financial burden for families already struggling to afford quality childcare services.
- **Disproportionate Impact on Individuals Experiencing Poverty:** The economic ramifications of this amendment disproportionately affect individuals and families experiencing poverty. Delayed access to childcare services can hinder parents' ability to work or pursue education, perpetuating the cycle of poverty within our communities.
- **Impact on Diversity in the Workforce:** The childcare workforce in the State of Maryland is predominantly comprised of women of color. Lengthy clearance procedures often result in qualified candidates seeking alternative employment opportunities, further exacerbating diversity and representation issues within the workforce.
- **Operational Challenges for Childcare Organizations:** Childcare organizations will face significant operational challenges as a result of this amendment. Extended wait periods for clearance force providers to identify additional employees to maintain adequate staffing levels, leading to a direct loss of the educational investment made in these individuals.

A charitable, cause-driven organization working for community well-being.

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