

HB 331 - Election Law – Candidate Expenditures – C

Uploaded by: Joanne Antoine

Position: FAV

March 27, 2024

Testimony on HB 331
Election Law – Candidate Expenditures – Campaign-Related Caregiving Expenses
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland is in support of HB 331. This legislation would expand the allowable uses of campaign funds to include reasonable expenses for childcare incurred by the candidate as a direct result of campaign activity.

As more parents of young children begin to run for elected office, we are thankfully seeing increased public awareness of the additional barriers they face to getting on the ballot. Like so many full-time jobs, campaigning is generally family unfriendly. The long and often unpredictable hours candidates keep in order to attend events, meet with constituents, and spread their message rarely match up with local school and childcare center schedules. Additionally, the exorbitant costs of running a competitive campaign - which depending on the office sought can run into the millions of dollars – can be debilitating to candidates from working families, especially when the average cost of childcare per child per year has reached upwards of \$10,000 across the U.S.

Finding quality childcare is expensive and difficult, putting an extra burden on low-income candidates and single parents, who statistically are more likely to be women. Political candidates often end up having to take a leave of absence or even quitting their jobs altogether in order for office, options that are not feasible for candidates that come from or support low-income or single parent families. The effect of this is that it is often wealthy white men who are more likely to run for and win positions in local, state, or federal offices – this in turn impacts the likelihood that we will see more policies that help women and children.

It is important to note that on the federal level, candidates have been able to use campaign funds for childcare expenses following a 2018 ruling by the Federal Election Commission. Since then, 30 states have passed legislation to codify this practice into law.¹

Normalizing childcare expenditures as part of a campaign is a critical step towards making elected office more inclusive and accessible for more people in diverse circumstances. For those reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report.

¹ <https://www.votemamafoundation.org/reports/cfcc2024>

MGA2024-HB331-FAV-MDAC.pdf

Uploaded by: Liz Zogby

Position: FAV



Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee
HB 331: Election Law - Candidate Expenditures - Campaign-Related Caregiving Expenses
March 27, 2024
Position: Support

The Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition (MDAC) is a coalition of the five Down syndrome organizations in Maryland as well as individuals with Down syndrome and their family members who have come together to advocate for improved quality of life for all individuals with Down syndrome throughout the state of Maryland. MDAC works in coalition with other disability and advocacy organizations across the state and supports many legislative and policy efforts.

MDAC supports HB331, which would allow candidates for political office to include reasonable expenses for caregiving services, incurred as a direct result of campaign activity and necessary to promote the candidacy of the candidate, as campaign-related expenses. Critically for our community, these caregiving services can include the “direct care, protection, and supervision of a child or an individual with a disability for whom a candidate has direct caregiving responsibility.”

It is important for the public to know that caregiving expenses for children and for dependents with disabilities are permissible campaign expenditures. This bill will create awareness that one barrier faced by parents of children and dependent adults with disabilities when they wish to run for political office has been removed.

The more perspectives found within our government, the more representative it is of the people. The perspectives of parents of disabled children and adults are unique and are underrepresented in our government. MDAC supports participation in civic life and advocacy efforts by individuals with Down syndrome and their family members, and for these reasons, MDAC supports HB331.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Zogby
Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition
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VMF_HB0331_MD_EEECommittee.pdf

Uploaded by: Louisa Duggan

Position: FAV



Good afternoon, my name is Louisa Duggan— and I am submitting written testimony on behalf of Vote Mama Foundation in strong support of HB0331.

Childcare obligations are one of the major factors families consider when weighing their decision to run for office. In many states, it costs more to send an infant to childcare than to complete a mortgage payment. This is not an expense working families can take on — especially when campaigning.

[Vote Mama Foundation is the only organization working to expand and codify the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare in all 50 states.](#) Having young children should never deter any parent from considering a run for office. At Vote Mama Foundation, we believe being a caregiver is a resume builder: we need folks in office representing the needs of everyday families. By making this one simple change, we can support young families and their need for safe and affordable care.

In 2018, the Federal Election Commission approved federal candidates' option to spend campaign funds on childcare through a unanimous, bipartisan vote. This paved the way for other federal candidates to do so as well.

[Subsequently, 31 states, both Democratic and Republican, have brought their state statutes in line with federal regulations.](#) States like Arkansas, California, Washington, and West Virginia all allow for candidates to use their campaign dollars on caregiver expenses.

Currently state and local candidates in Maryland are allowed to use their campaign funds on childcare expenses through an [Ethics Ruling published in 2019](#). By codifying the Ethics Ruling, the Maryland Legislature has the opportunity to send a clear message to all candidates - that the use of campaign money on childcare expenses is explicitly allowed and should be normalized.

This legislation is a bipartisan initiative for moms and dads alike. As with any other campaign finance allowance, this bill creates an option for use and is not a mandate — candidates don't have to use campaign funds on caregiving expenses if they don't want to.

Even better — this common sense solution is at no cost to taxpayers.

I am thrilled to share that in January of 2024, Vote Mama Foundation released [Campaign Funds for Childcare: A Data-Driven Report on a Structural Solution for Caregiving Candidates](#), a groundbreaking report on the impact and usage of Campaign Funds for Childcare (CFCC)!



Our research revealed that since 2018:

- **CFCC spending has increased by 662% for federal candidates and by 2,156% for state and local candidates**
- The majority of federal funds were spent by women
- At the federal level: 46% of funds were spent by candidates of color
- At the state and local level: 70% of funds were spent by candidates of color

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to support HB0331 and vote it out of committee.

HB 331 - Support - Del Guyton (Senate).pdf

Uploaded by: Michele Guyton

Position: FAV

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 27, 2024

Support – HB331 Election Law – Campaign Expenditures – Campaign-Related Caregiving Expenses

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

I respectfully submit HB331 for your consideration. This bill codifies a 2019 guidance letter from the State Board of Elections that authorized childcare expenses as an appropriate use for campaign funds.

The purpose of this bill is to encourage and support wider, more inclusive, participation in the political system. Currently, parents of young children and dependents with significant disabilities are disincentivized from running and serving in elected office. The importance of Codification cannot be overstated. It is necessary to protect this ruling from political changes, promote awareness, and provide piece of mind and consistency for those who may run and become elected to public office.

In addition, the House Committee adopted an amendment to clarify that adult dependents with disabilities who need care may also be covered under the authorization.

I request a favorable report on HB331.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegat Michele Guyton".

Delegat Michele Guyton

2024 HB0331 Testimony Against 2024-03-27.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: UNF

Honorable Senators

I oppose HB0331.

According to Delegate Guyton's testimony, this bill would codify the 2019 SBE guidance for allowing certain child care expenses to be paid with campaign funds. She believes this bill would allow more candidates with young dependents to seek election since they can use campaign funds to pay for it. However, if they cannot afford day care during a campaign, would they be able to afford day care once elected and they have even more demands of their time?

Please vote against HB0331.

Alan Lang, District 31
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HB0331OPPOSE.pdf

Uploaded by: Peggy Williams

Position: UNF

HB0331

OPPOSE

Election Law - Candidate Expenditures - Campaign-Related Caregiving Expenses

Dear Committee Members:

Please oppose HB0331. I do not believe this is an appropriate expenditure for campaign funds. I also believe this is a way to promote the candidacies of another group of people ultimately into positions in government, and not in a bipartisan or transparent way.

Peggy Williams

Severna Park

D31

HB0331.pdf

Uploaded by: Suzanne Price

Position: UNF

Please do not support HB0331. If you can't afford to pay for day to day expenses (that WE ALL must pay as responsible citizens) before or during an election, HOW IN THE WORLD will you be able to afford to pay day to day expenses after being elected? Is this WELFARE for bureaucrats? Would this be a new low for politics and politicians? SEEMS so.

As a taxpayer I do not want to pay for anyone else's child care or someone else's dependents expenditures. I recently had to make the decision not to be a delegate because of the expense that I would have had to pay out of my own pocket which I could not currently afford because of the current hyperinflation we are all living through. As a responsible US and Maryland citizen I made a responsible decision. If you can't afford to run for office, then you shouldn't be running.

Suzanne Price
AACo, Maryland

HB0331 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: William Love

Position: UNF

I'm Bill Love of 490 Fairoak Dr, Severna Park MD

Concerning HB0331: Election Law - Candidate Expenditures - Campaign-Related Caregiving Expenses

Please, vote unfavorably to this unconstitutional bill.

Thank you