



Testimony Concerning SB 59
“Safe Sleep for Infants - Awareness and Certification”
Submitted to the Senate Finance Committee
February 8, 2024

Position: Support with Amendments

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports efforts to ensure infants have safe sleep environments and child care programs are licensed, inspected, and following safe sleep regulations.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and other supports for children and families in Maryland. As the largest and oldest statewide child advocacy organization in Maryland, MFN is strongly committed to ensuring the health and well-being of children across our state.

Maryland State Department of Education recently updated child care center and family child care home safe sleep regulations. As of February 5, 2024, regulations are now in line with the latest research recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Additionally, cribs, portable cribs, and playpens used for child care must adhere to the current safety standards set by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. For this reason, MFN respectfully requests striking the portion of SB 59 referring to child care centers (page 3 line 26 through page 5 line 15).

Efforts to raise public awareness of the importance of safe sleep have merit. A campaign to promote safe sleep for infants could educate parents on strategies they can implement in the home.

MFN respectfully requests consideration of amendments to SB 59.

