



TESTIMONY FOR HB1254
Child Care Providers - Criminal History Records Checks and Abuse and Neglect
Clearances - Requirements

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Wells

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1254 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill, if enacted, would require individuals who apply for a position that would require them to interact directly with children to submit to a criminal history check. It would also stand up a unit within the Department of Education that would be staffed by credentialing specialists in the regional child care licensing offices throughout the state. That unit would be responsible for processing the history checks and maintaining a list of individuals who have passed a criminal history check. The criminal history checks would have to be repeated every 5 years.

Our children are precious to us all and keeping them safe from harm is an important goal. Ensuring that the people who are caring for them when they are in a child care situation do not have criminal records is critical. Our members support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.