



**Maryland State
Family Child Care
Association**
www.msfccca.org

Testimony - HB 1403

Family Child Care Homes and Large Family
Child Care Homes-Age of Children in Care-
Alterations

March 6, 2024 @1pm

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Honorable Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to express the [Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA)]'s favorable support for HB 1403 with proposed amendments. As a family childcare provider, myself, I am intimately aware of the challenges faced by both caregivers and working parents in our state's childcare system. I have experienced firsthand the desperate calls from working parents, often in tears, because they could not secure infant spots for their children. My fear, and that of many other providers, is that these parents may resort to unlicensed care options, which can be unsafe for our youngest learners.

HB 1403 proposes alterations to the age of children in family childcare homes and large family childcare homes, with certain limitations on the number of children in care and adult-to-child ratios. MSFCCA fully supports these alterations and suggests additional amendments to further enhance the effectiveness of this bill.

Firstly, we propose changing the age definition of infants from birth to 2 years old to birth to 18 months old. This change will enable family childcare providers to better cater to the unique needs of infants and ensure a higher level of care and attention for this vulnerable age group.

Furthermore, MSFCCA advocates for the implementation of a limit of one for single provider and 2 with additional adult on the 18–24-month age group in family child care homes and large family child care homes. This restriction is essential to maintain a safe and conducive environment for all children under care. By placing a cap on the number of children within this age range, providers can ensure adequate supervision and personalized care for each child.

It is crucial to emphasize that these amendments are not only intended to expand the state's childcare supply but also to prioritize the safety and welfare of children. By implementing these changes, we can create a more supportive and nurturing environment for Maryland's youngest residents and their families.

In conclusion, MSFCCA urges the committee to support HB 1403 with the proposed amendments outlined above. We believe that these changes will have a positive impact on the quality and accessibility of childcare services in our state, ultimately benefiting children, families, and providers alike.

Thank you for consideration.
Sincerely,

Ruby Daniels
President, MSFCCA

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