



## Maryland State Child Care Association

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**Caring For Maryland's Most  
Important Natural Resource™**

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*The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is a non-profit, statewide, professional association incorporated in 1984 to promote the growth and development of child care and learning centers in Maryland. MSCCA has over 5000 members working in the field of child care/early childhood education. We believe children are our most important natural resource and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.*

**Testimony: HB 1254 Child Care Providers-Criminal History-Records Checks and Abuse and Neglect  
Clearances -Requirements  
Submitted to: Ways and Means Committee  
February 28, 2024**

Maryland State Child Care Association enthusiastically supports HB 1254. We thank sponsor, Delegate Wells for her leadership and support of the child care industry workforce, children and families.

HB 1254 is important legislation addressing safety and efficiency related to criminal background checks and clearances in licensed child care settings. This bill will make a positive impact by centralizing the criminal background checks within MSDE and communicating clearances, which will help child care providers to receive clearances or alerts more quickly as safety and well-being of all children and staff are the foundation of quality child care.

Criminal background checks have high costs associated and multiple layers of clearances are required. This sensitive and important information should be centralized for effectiveness, timeliness, and for dedicated support for child care workforce industry of over 50,000 in the field.

The child care industry continues to struggle with critical workforce shortages. Criminal background checks are required for employment, therefore must be a priority and this bill helps streamline the process and will assist with sensitive and timely information and communication to child care programs and protect children thoroughly, with a dedicated office for this sole purpose.

MSCCA urges a favorable report.

