



TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Aletheia McCaskill

FROM: Christine K. Krone
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
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DATE: March 6, 2024

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 1403 – *Family Child Care Homes and Large Family Child Care Homes*
– *Age of Children in Care – Alterations*

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **opposition** for House Bill 1403.

MDAAP strongly opposes House Bill 1403, which allows for family child care homes to provide care to no more than 8 children at any given time, and allows for 4 of those children to be under the age of **15 months**. Current law states **2 years**. Additionally, there is an adult to child ratio of at least 1 adult to every two children under 15 months. However, the proposed legislation does not address the age or the adult to child ratio requirements for the other 6 children in the group, which could result in a group of eight children under age 2. Standards for ratios and group sizes are a way to ensure the safety, well-being, and development of children in child care programs. Infants and toddlers require close supervision and individualized care to ensure their safety and well-being. We feel strongly that this proposed decrease in age for children served in combination with the total number of children served is a recipe for unsafe conditions. We urge an unfavorable report.

For more information call:

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