

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1057**  
**Treatment Foster Care Homes – Child Care Stipends for Private Providers**  
*House Appropriations Committee*  
**March 4, 2025**

**As a single therapeutic foster parent, I strongly support HB1057**, which aims to provide child care assistance through subsidies and scholarships for eligible foster care families. Balancing full-time work during the day and some weekends, I have been fortunate to care for a child placed in my home at 18 months old, who is now four years old and has been diagnosed with developmental delays.

When my son first came into my care, I inquired about daycare assistance but was informed by his case worker that, due to him being in therapeutic foster care and the stipend we receive, no additional support would be provided.

As he continues to grow, his diagnosis requires me to supply diapers and wipes for daycare, school, and home. The cost of purchasing three cases of diapers and three cases of wipes for multiple locations is a significant financial burden. While I have discussed potential price adjustments with my daycare provider, I understand that, as a business, long-term reductions are not feasible. A temporary adjustment might be possible, but a year-round reduction is unrealistic.

HB1057 would provide much-needed relief for foster parents like me, ensuring that we can meet the essential needs of the children in our care without overwhelming financial strain.

As loving parents, we all want our children, whether biological or foster, to be in a safe and nurturing environment while we work. Even if the state of Maryland cannot cover the full cost of daycare, I believe they should provide some level of assistance to help support families in need.

The financial support provided through this bill would allow me to reallocate the funds I currently spend on childcare to other essential aspects of my son's development, such as educational outing and etc that will support his learning.

I strongly urge a favorable report on HB1057. If passed, this bill will provide much-needed child care assistance, helping families create a safe and stable home for foster children without the added financial burden.

Avanti Fulwood