

THE COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S CHILDREN

Our Mission: To combine and amplify the power of organizations and citizens working together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We strive to secure budgetary and public policy resources to make meaningful and measurable improvements in safety, permanence, and wellbeing.



HB809 - Out-Of-Home Placement Providers -
Maximum Number of Children - Exemption
House Appropriations Committee

Position: **SUPPORT**

The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children is a consortium of organizations and individuals formed in 1996 who are concerned about the care of Maryland's most vulnerable children and work together to promote meaningful child welfare reform. CPMC urges a favorable report on HB809 - Out-Of-Home Placement Providers - Maximum Number of Children - Exemption.¹

HB0809 seeks to clarify that any limitations on the number of children and youth residing in an out-of-home placement shall not prevent a college student returning to that foster care home during school breaks and holidays, a temporary closure of the higher education institution, or a temporary leave of absence. Foster youth should not be concerned that the decision to attend college and live on campus means risks losing one's placement in their foster home. Currently, if a college student were in the situation of not having space available in the foster family home, a waiver process can be initiated with no guarantee – but no guarantee of approval. All college students should be able to pursue their academic goals without threats of housing instability.

It is for these reasons that the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children **urges a favorable report** on HB809 - Out-Of-Home Placement Providers - Maximum Number of Children – Exemption.

¹ Members of CPMC represented by this written testimony include Catholic Charities of Baltimore, Center for Hope, Citizens Review Board for Children, Court Appointed Special Advocates (MD CASA), Court Appointed Special Advocates (Baltimore County), Everstand, MD Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) Maryland Children's Alliance, National Association of Social Workers – MD, and State Council on Child Abuse & Neglect (SCCAN)