



Testimony Concerning HB 859
“Access to Health Insurance for Child Care Professionals - Outreach and Qualifying
Nonprofit Satellite Organizations”
Submitted to the House Health & Government Operations and
Ways & Means Committees
February 20, 2025

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports HB 859, which would promote access to health insurance for child care professionals.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and other supports for children and their families. We have been active in state and federal debates on policies that address the needs of working families and are strongly committed to ensuring that they have the supports they need to care for their children while meeting the demands of their jobs.

A healthy and stable child care workforce is critical to Maryland’s families and our economy. Low wages and lack of benefits impact a program’s ability to recruit and retain well-qualified staff. Health insurance coverage could support access to preventive care, decrease a caregiver’s time away from children, and help manage health related expenses.

Child care providers often work for small businesses or are self-employed. Many turn to their local Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) for training and support. The CCRCs stand ready to partner with the Maryland State Department of Education on outreach to promote access to health insurance for child care professionals.

Child care programs need to compete successfully in attracting and retaining qualified employees. Access to health insurance will be crucial to this effort. MFN respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 859.

Submitted by Laura Weeldreyer, Executive Director

