

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.



**SB0833 – Family Law - Treatment Foster Care Homes - Child
Care Stipends for Private Providers
Senate Judicial Proceeding Committee
February 19, 2025**

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 SB0833** – Family Law - Treatment Foster Care Homes - Child Care Stipends for Private Providers.¹

SB0833 recognizes the challenges of accessing childcare among Maryland families and seeks to create equitable ways for foster care parents to access subsidies and scholarships to meet their needs. Childcare is often a significant hurdle, with many families facing financial barriers that limit their ability to access high quality services. Those who open their homes as foster care parents are no different, and with the rising cost of childcare, the standard stipends are not covering these expenses. This is especially true if the child needs therapeutic childcare, which is even more expensive for families to afford.

As advocates for child safety and wellbeing, we recognize the important roles of both public foster care parents and private treatment foster care parents. Any assistance the state can give to help more homes open their doors to these children and keep them open by offering continual support and stability as caregivers is a smart investment. The funds will allow foster families to allocate resources more effectively to meet the comprehensive needs of foster children and allow these young people to thrive.

It is for these reasons that the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children **urges a favorable report on SB0833** – Family Law - Treatment Foster Care Homes - Child Care Stipends for Private Providers.

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