



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen Dojan | Chair

Laura Figueroa | Vice Chair

Kevin Drumheller

Matt Griffith

David Groppell

Mark Kerr

Jack Lynch

Laura Pontikes

Diana Reeves

Brad Gouge

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Scott Lundy
President/Chief Executive Officer

Larissa Potiomkin
Chief Development Officer

Jay Pruett
Chief Operating Officer

Emily Riley
Chief Administrative Officer

Anjanette Sauers
Chief Financial Officer

SB0833 Family Law - Treatment Foster Care Homes - Child Care Stipends for Private Providers Senate Judicial Proceeding Committee POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Arrow Child & Family Ministries, we are writing to express our unwavering support for Senate Bill 0833, a critical piece of legislation that would allow Private Treatment Foster Care Parents to receive the same child care subsidies as Public Foster Parents.

As a provider working directly with foster families, we have witnessed firsthand the struggles they endure to provide care for the children they welcome into their homes. Childcare is often a significant hurdle, with many families facing financial barriers that limit their ability to access high quality services. This legislation is a beacon of hope for foster care families who tirelessly work to provide safe, loving homes for children in need. By offering subsidies and scholarships for childcare, Senate Bill 0833 addresses a significant financial challenge, allowing foster families to allocate resources more effectively to meet the comprehensive needs of foster children.

Historically, Treatment Foster Homes licensed by private Child Placement Agencies were not afforded the child care subsidies provided to public Foster Homes. The rationale was that the higher stipend paid to private TFC families would cover the costs. Over time, the rising cost of child care has resulted in this no longer being the case. Many families report that the cost of child care takes up most of not all or more of the stipend. This is especially true if the child needs therapeutic child care, which is even more expensive for families. To conclude, we urge you to support SB 0833 to support foster care families and children of Maryland. This bill is a step toward a more compassionate, supportive system that recognizes the needs of foster families and provides the necessary resources to meet those needs. Your support for this legislation is a vote for the stability, well-being, and future of our foster children and their caregivers.

Thank you.
Robert Basler, LCSW-C
Associate Vice President
Arrow Child & Family Ministries