



**Caring For Maryland's Most
Important Natural Resource™**

Maryland State Child Care Association

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The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is a non-profit, statewide, professional association incorporated in 1984 to promote the growth and development of child care and learning centers in Maryland. MSCCA has over 5500 members working in the field of child care/early childhood education. We believe children are our most important natural resource and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

Testimony: SB 1006: Submitted to: Judiciary Committee

Feb 27, 2025

Maryland State Child Care Association is grateful and supports HB 1006.

Recent immigration policies are spreading fear throughout the child care workforce, which is comprised of diverse women. Child Care programs were protected from ICE interference under sensitive locations umbrella for more than a decade, however with the guardrails of protection removed by the newly elected President, our essential workforce and the families we serve are at risk.

The children in child care should feel safe and not be exposed to the trauma of immigration actions while in licensed, safe care and education settings in Maryland.

HB 1006 is an emergency effort to provide Maryland sensitive locations with policies and guidance that will support our vulnerable residents and children in these uncertain times.

Two years ago, Maryland passed a law to include our immigrant residents in licensure for child care businesses eliminating the social security requirements and instead use tax identification numbers. Maryland is a progressive and inclusive state. We value diversity and want to assist our child care programs with protective policies to ensure the children in our care and all working in licensed child care settings receive guidance and work to limit traumatic enforcement.

Maryland is a proud, highly diverse state with many immigrant residents, and we need to look to state leaders to provide guidance and safe spaces policies. HB 1006, *Protecting Sensitive Locations Act* includes places where children gather including child care centers and before and after school care centers. Licensed child care programs in centers and before and after school programs which include capacity for over 175,000 children and a workforce of over 20,000. The legislation requires the Attorney General and stakeholders to develop guidelines for operating at these sensitive locations which limit immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible by federal and state law.

We must unite and adopt policies that support, strengthen, and protect our children and residents, especially in vulnerable, sensitive locations.

MSCCA urges a favorable report for HB 1006.

