



House Ways and Means Committee
February 5, 2025

House Bill 477 – *Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers – Adult to Child Ratios –
Alterations*

LETTER OF INFORMATION

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter of information for House Bill 477.

House Bill 477 proposes modifications to child-to-adult ratios and the number of young children permitted in family child care homes and child care centers. We appreciate the bill sponsors' engagement with stakeholders and consideration of recommended amendments in advance of session. However, the bill, as introduced, proposes adult-to-child ratios that exceed nationally recognized standards for optimal child supervision. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Public Health Association, and the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education provide evidence-based guidelines for child-to-adult ratios to ensure safe and developmentally appropriate care. For reference, [ChildCare.gov's Supervision: Ratios and Group Sizes](https://www.childcare.gov/supervision-ratios-and-group-sizes) outlines these recommendations.

We respectfully request that the Committee carefully consider this information as it reviews House Bill 477. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with legislators and stakeholders to explore potential amendments that align with best practices while addressing child care needs in Maryland. We also recognize the operational and financial challenges that child care providers face and are committed to working toward solutions that balance quality care with the sustainability of family child care homes and centers. If appropriate, we would be happy to participate in a stakeholder meeting to refine the bill and prepare a revised version for the subcommittee discussion. We look forward to working with Delegates Barnes and McCaskill to facilitate further dialogue on this important issue.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000