

**Eastern Shore of Maryland
Volunteer Fireman's Association**



February 13, 2025

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Chairman, Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Atterbeary and Members of Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing on behalf President Bruce Webster of the Eastern Shore of Maryland Volunteer Fireman's Association to go on record in opposition HB477, "Family Child Care and Child Care Centers-Adult to Child Ratios-Alterations". We feel that it is a safety issue.

Increasing the staff/child ratio from one adult per every two children younger than two to one adult to every four children younger than age one and one adult to every five children who are at least one year old (but younger than age two) poses an extreme safety issue in case of an emergency. At this age the children are unable to fend for their selves and if increase the adult/child ratio to one adult has at least five children age two or less you are putting these young children in extreme danger. It also cuts down on the quality of care they receive.

The Eastern Shore of Maryland Volunteer Fireman's Association urges
you vote in opposition to HB477.

Sincerely,



William L. Hildebrand

Past President