



**Written Testimony in Support of
House Bill 1259
Zoning Authorities – Operation of Family Child Care Homes –
Prohibitions and Requirements**

**Submitted to the House Economic Matters Committee
Position: Favorable**

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Ruby Daniels**, and I am the President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA), representing nearly 4,000 licensed family childcare providers across Maryland. I am also a family childcare provider with over 30 years of experience serving working families in my community. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1259.

Family childcare providers are licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and **must** comply with rigorous health, safety, and educational standards. However, despite meeting state requirements, many providers face local zoning barriers that prevent them from operating or expanding their programs.

House Bill 1259 ensures that local jurisdictions cannot deny or restrict the operation of family child care or large family child care homes through zoning rules. It also requires that family childcare homes be recognized as a residential activity and a permitted use in residential zones.

It is important to emphasize that this bill does not allow automatic expansion for everyone. Not every home qualifies. Providers must meet strict MSDE licensing standards, including:

- **35 square feet of usable indoor space per child**
- **75 square feet of outdoor space per child**
- Strict child-to-staff ratios and staffing patterns
- Ongoing monitoring and compliance inspections

If a provider does not meet these requirements, they cannot expand or operate. Licensing standards remain unchanged and fully enforced.



**Maryland State
Family Child Care
Association**
www.msfccca.org

What HB 1259 does is remove unnecessary local barriers that limit access to care. At a time when many family childcare programs continue to close across Maryland, this bill can help provide additional seats in communities that desperately need them. Expansion — when providers meet all requirements — means more available childcare without compromising safety or quality.

Working families benefit directly when childcare is available in their neighborhoods. Parents can remain in the workforce, businesses retain employees, and local economies thrive. Family childcare is essential infrastructure that supports Maryland's labor force and overall economic stability.

HB 1259 strengthens business stability for small home-based providers, increases access for families, and aligns local zoning authority with state licensing standards. It supports both the early childhood system and the broader economy.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 1259.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ruby Daniels
President, Maryland State Family Child Care Association
Family Child Care Provider
rubygd33@gmail.com