



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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 543

House Economic Matters Committee

Chair: Delegate Kriselda Valderrama

Vice Chair: Delegate Lorig Charkoudian

Hearing Date: February 19, 2026

Dear Chair Valderrama and Vice Chair Charkoudian

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 also testify as a **family childcare provider myself**, with over 30 years of experience serving working families in my community.

I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of House Bill 543**.

Family childcare providers are small business owners who operate from their homes and serve infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children often during nontraditional hours that many families rely on. We are an essential part of Maryland's childcare system, particularly for working parents, essential workers, and families seeking care close to home.

Despite being licensed and regulated by the State, many family childcare providers who rent their homes face **housing-related barriers** that threaten their ability to operate. Providers are frequently denied leases, restricted by lease provisions, or forced to close their programs simply because they operate or plan to operate a family childcare home. These actions occur even when providers are fully compliant with health, safety, and licensing requirements.

When a family childcare provider is forced to close due to housing barriers, the consequences extend beyond the provider. Families lose reliable childcare, employers lose dependable workers, and children lose stable learning environments and trusted caregivers. At a time when Maryland continues to face a childcare shortage especially for infants and toddlers losing licensed providers due to preventable housing issues is a setback our communities cannot afford.

HB 543 offers a **balanced and reasonable approach**. The bill protects family childcare providers from being unfairly prohibited or unreasonably restricted in rental housing, while also preserving landlord rights. It allows landlords to require liability insurance, charge an increased security deposit, and provides civil liability protections. This approach recognizes family childcare as a lawful, licensed small business while addressing landlord concerns.

Maryland has made significant investments in early childhood education and childcare expansion. Those investments will only succeed if providers are able to maintain stable housing and continue operating their businesses. HB 543 helps protect the supply of family childcare and supports the needs of Maryland's working families.



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For these reasons, on behalf of MSFCCA and the family childcare providers we represent statewide, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report on HB 543**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruby Daniels

President, Maryland State Family Child Care Association
Family Child Care Provider