



Testimony Concerning HB 543
“Real Property - Landlord and Tenant - Family Child Care Homes”
Submitted to the House Economic Matters Committee
February 19, 2026

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports HB 543, which would remove barriers for a tenant or prospective tenant interested in operating a family child care program in a leased single-family dwelling.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and early childhood education as well as other supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on child care policy and are strongly committed to ensuring that children, along with their parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.

A family child care home is typically operated by a provider in her own residence. The provider undergoes background checks, a prescribed course of training, and safety inspections prior to being licensed. Group size cannot exceed eight children, with no more than two children under age 2. Family child care homes are regulated by Maryland State Department of Education’s Office of Child Care.

Family child care is an important community asset. Sometimes, however, restrictions in leases, have forced those interested in opening family child care homes to move. This limits families’ access to child care in their own neighborhoods. These restrictions are often based on misunderstandings about what family child care is.

Registered family child care is an important part of Maryland's child care delivery system. MFN respectfully urges favorable consideration of HB 543.

Submitted by Beth Morrow, Director of Public Policy