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**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**February 11, 2026**

**To:**

**Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, Chair**

**Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, Vice Chair**

**Economic Matters Committee**

The Maryland Women's Caucus proudly supports HB 0543, Real Property – Landlord and Tenant – Family Child Care Homes.

HB 0543 prohibits certain landlords from prohibiting or unreasonably limiting the operation of a licensed family child care home within residential rental property. The bill authorizes landlords to impose an increased security deposit under specified circumstances, require a tenant operating a family child care home to purchase liability insurance, and provides certain civil liability protections to landlords. The Act applies prospectively.

This legislation strikes a thoughtful balance between expanding access to child care and addressing legitimate concerns of property owners. Family child care homes play a critical role in Maryland's child care infrastructure, particularly for working families who rely on community-based providers. Many of these providers are women, and their ability to operate from their homes directly impacts economic stability and workforce participation.

The Maryland Women's Caucus is committed to advancing policies that support working families and strengthen Maryland's child care system. By preventing unreasonable restrictions on licensed family child care homes while preserving reasonable protections for landlords, HB 0543 promotes fairness, economic opportunity, and access to care.

Expanding child care availability strengthens local economies, supports parents in maintaining employment, and fosters early childhood development. HB 0543 ensures that housing status does not become an unnecessary barrier to operating a licensed child care business.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 0543.