



Testimony Concerning HB 430 – Family Child Care Providers

Reserve Component Members – Substitute Providers

Submitted to the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment  
Committee

March 25, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit association advocating on behalf of registered family child care providers in Maryland. These small businesses are a vital part of the child care delivery and the early education system in Maryland. Family child care offers a unique learning environment, flexible enough to meet each child's needs individually and the special relationships formed by children of various ages in family child care enhances the learning experience for all.

Currently, Maryland is experiencing a child care crisis, especially for those families who have children under the age of two (2) with family child care providers leaving the field at an alarming rate. One of the struggles for family child care providers is finding and keeping qualified substitutes and the ability to use them beyond the current twenty (20) days without approval from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) (COMAR 13A.15.6.03.C(2)).

Maryland's Family Child Care Providers who have chosen to serve their county and remain in the reserves have an additional challenge when they are required to complete their annual training or called up for active duty service, and that is the ability to use their substitute beyond the twenty (20) day currently allowed in COMAR 13A.15.6.03.C(2). HB 430 will help Maryland's Family Child Care Providers who are also military reservists continue to fulfill their obligation in protecting our country without having to close their early childhood education programs and the families that they serve.

MSFCCA has been a consistent leader in early care and education policy and giving HB 430 a favorable vote will be a step forward in saving an industry that is vitally important to Maryland families and the economy.

MSFCCA appreciates the opportunity to comment on this legislation and welcomes any questions or comments. Feel free to contact Rebecca Hancock, the MSFCCA Vice President of Public Policy at (240) 299-0222 (cell), (301) 934-4445 (home), or [kaysplayhousechildcare@gmail.com](mailto:kaysplayhousechildcare@gmail.com) to answer any questions concerning this testimony.

Respectfully,

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