



TESTIMONY FOR HB1034
Child Care Entities - Child Abuse and Neglect - Training and Reporting Requirements

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stinnett

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1034 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

It makes perfect sense that child care providers are trained in how to recognize, react to, and report on child abuse. A child care environment is an early place to learn about abuse and hopefully, by reacting properly and reporting it, can mitigate a lot of harm that comes from letting it continue unchecked.

This bill, if enacted, would require each child care provider to complete this training within 6 months after the initial date of employment with a child care business, and every 2 years thereafter. Each child care business would certify that they are in compliance before July 1, 2027 and every year after that.

If an individual provider is determined to be non-compliant, they would be subject to the following escalating steps:

- a corrective action plan
- suspension or termination of employment
- suspension or revocation of the provider's license

If the child care business is determined to be non-compliant, they would be subject to the suspension or revocation of their license or registration.

Our members understand that this would come at a cost to child care providers, but the cost would be minimal and the result would be life changing for any child that does not slip under this radar.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.