

## **THE COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S CHILDREN**

*Our Mission: To combine and amplify the power of organizations and citizens working together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We strive to secure budgetary and public policy resources to make meaningful and measurable improvements in safety, permanence, and wellbeing.*



### **HB1034 – Child Care - Child Abuse and Neglect - Training Requirements**

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

**April 7, 2026**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children is a consortium of organizations and individuals formed in 1992 who are concerned about the care of Maryland's most vulnerable children and work together to educate and promote meaningful child welfare reform. **CPMC urges a favorable report HB1034 – Child Care - Child Abuse and Neglect - Training Requirements.**

HB1034 represents a significant step forward in our collective efforts to protect children from abuse and neglect. Childcare providers are often the first trusted adults outside a child's home to recognize signs of possible maltreatment. HB 1034 helps protect children while reinforcing best practices across the childcare system by ensuring providers receive consistent, recurring training on the identification, prevention, and reporting of child abuse.

After amendments, the bill currently requires licensed childcare center staff to complete instruction about child abuse detection and reporting within 90 days of starting employment and annually thereafter. This continuous education is vital for building a robust response system to child abuse, ultimately leading to safer environments for our children. Training prepares mandated reporters to handle challenging situations effectively, leading to better outcomes for children.

By strengthening this role of childcare providers and prioritizing training and access to current information about the identification, prevention, and reporting of child maltreatment, we can create safer, more supportive environments for Maryland's children.

It is for these reasons that the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children **urges a favorable report HB1034 – Child Care - Child Abuse and Neglect - Training Requirements.**<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Members of CPMC represented by this written testimony include – the American Academy of Pediatrics - Maryland Chapter, Catholic Charities, Child Justice, Center for Hope, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA - Baltimore County), The Family Tree, Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY), Maryland Children's Alliance, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, the State Council on Child Abuse & Neglect (SCCAN), and individual members of the coalition.