

HB1034_Child_Care_Entities_Child_Abuse_and_Neglect

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



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.

SEIU Local 500 Testimony in Support of HB 1034 Sen

Uploaded by: Christopher Cano

Position: FAV



Testimony - HB 1034, Child Care Entities - Child Abuse and Neglect - Training and Reporting Requirements
Favorable
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
April 7, 2026
Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chairman Feldman & Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SEIU Local 500 strongly supports House Bill 1034. Our union represents thousands of working people across Maryland, including child care providers who play a critical role in the safety, development, and well-being of young children and families.

This legislation takes an important and necessary step toward strengthening the safety net that protects our youngest and most vulnerable children. By requiring regular, standardized training on the identification, prevention, and reporting of child abuse and neglect, HB 1034 ensures that those on the frontlines of care are equipped with the tools they need to act swiftly and responsibly.

SEIU Local 500 supports several key improvements included in the bill as amended:

Clear, enforceable training requirements: Providers must complete training within six months of employment and every two years thereafter, while also meeting additional annual instructional requirements tied to licensure and registration. This layered approach reflects the seriousness of the responsibility placed on child care workers.

Recognition of child care providers as mandated reporters: By explicitly including providers within the definition of “educator or human service worker,” the bill reinforces their critical role in safeguarding children and clarifies their legal obligations.

Accountability measures that ensure compliance: The certification requirement and potential penalties for both individual providers and child care entities underscore that these standards are not optional—they are essential.

Accessible training infrastructure: The requirement that the state provide a free online training course removes barriers to compliance and ensures equitable access across the workforce.

Our members know better than anyone that child care workers are often the first line of defense in identifying abuse or neglect. They build trusting relationships with children and families, and they are uniquely positioned to notice when something is wrong. But with that responsibility must come meaningful support, clear expectations, and consistent training.

HB 1034 moves Maryland closer to a system where every child care provider—regardless of setting—has the knowledge and confidence to act when it matters most.

At the same time, we emphasize that implementation must be done in a way that supports—not punishes—the workforce. Many child care providers are already underpaid and overburdened. As the state strengthens requirements, it must also remain committed to investing in this workforce through adequate funding, paid training time, and technical assistance.

In closing, SEIU Local 500 urges a favorable report on House Bill 1034. Protecting children and supporting the workers who care for them are not competing priorities—they are one and the same.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB1034 CPMC FAV EEE.pdf

Uploaded by: Diana Philip

Position: FAV

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.**¹

¹ 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.

MD Catholic Conference_HB 1034_FAV SENATE CROSS.pd

Uploaded by: Garrett O'Day

Position: FAV



**MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE**

April 7, 2026

HB 1034

Child Care - Child Abuse and Neglect - Training Requirements

House Ways & Means Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of House Bill 1034, a amended by the House of Delegates. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government. The Maryland Catholic Conference also offers this testimony on behalf of the families of approximately 50,000 students served by more than 150 PreK-12 Catholic schools in Maryland.

House Bill 1034 would require important mandatory training on child abuse and neglect. The Conference wholeheartedly supports such a measure. The Conference originally suggested that, rather than require teachers and staff to complete the training proscribed by Family Law Article 5-716 as procured by the state department of education, the bill should allow for a substitute course that is at least as comprehensive and covering the same topics is well warranted. That appears to have been addressed in the House amendments.

Maryland's Catholic schools have long observed stringent child protection measures beyond what was previously required by the State. As a matter of course, Catholic schools conduct mandatory criminal background checks on all employees and on volunteers who work with children, provide comprehensive awareness training to educate adults and children on how to recognize predatory behaviors, and promptly report all suspected incidents of child sexual abuse.

Our teachers and staff are required to undergo training on child abuse and neglect that is often over and above what is ultimately required through Family Law Article 5-716. Rather than force them into duplicative training, we propose to allow them to satisfy the requirements of this bill through internal training that is at least as comprehensive and includes those provision or topics covered by the Family Law Article 5-716 training. Hopefully, the amended version of the bill will address that concern.

HB1034_DHS_FAV (EEE).pdf

Uploaded by: Gloria Brown-Burnett

Position: FAV



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Stacy L. Rodgers, Acting Secretary

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: TESTIMONY ON HB 1034 - FAMILY LAW - CHILD CARE ENTITIES - CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT - TRAINING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1034 (HB 1034).

With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS provides preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to assist Marylanders in reaching their full potential. Our Social Services Administration implements the Child Protective Services (CPS) program which is affected by HB1034. HB1034 mandates that all employees, contractors, and volunteers at licensed child care entities complete specific safety and legal training regarding child abuse reporting within six months of hire and every two years thereafter, and requires compliance reporting.

HB1034 would close safety gaps among childcare providers by addressing the lack of standardized, recurring training for all individuals with access to children. Child care center employees are required to serve as mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect under [COMAR 13A.16.07.02](#). There is currently no obligation for these mandated reporters to participate in training to help identify the signs of child abuse or neglect, and there is no requirement for the operator of a child care center to verify employees are trained. HB1034 would solve these omissions by requiring providers of childcare services to ensure employees, volunteers, and contractors are trained to identify signs of abuse or neglect. Additionally, the legislation ensures training is current by requiring refresher courses every two years. Without training, mandated

reporters more frequently report suspected child abuse or neglect, and fewer reports are substantiated. As a result, untrained mandated reporters increase costs and draw limited resources from children who need interventions for their safety.

Furthermore, the bill shifts accountability for training from individuals to their employers by requiring childcare service employers to proactively audit their staff or face potential loss of their operating license.

HB1034 would enhance and support DHS programs by training thousands of community professionals to more accurately recognize signs of child maltreatment and encourage appropriate intervention. Training for mandatory reporters would also reduce misreporting poverty-related conditions as neglect. DHS has been moving towards a framework of “Mandated Supporters,” and our training helps professionals distinguish between neglect (unwillingness to provide care) and poverty (inability to provide due to lack of resources). The distinction helps ensure that DHS resources are directed in a way that best serves children and families — by addressing abuse cases, or providing families with the economic and social support they need.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Justin Hayes, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at justin.hayes1@maryland.gov.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gloria Brown Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gloria Brown Burnett
Deputy Secretary for Operations