



March 26, 2026

The Honorable Chair William Smith
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 1292 – Child Advocacy Centers – Continuity of Care Standards for Healthcare Professionals and Reports of Violations
Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Smith:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1292 - *Child Advocacy Centers – Continuity of Care Standards for Healthcare Professionals and Reports of Violations*. The Maryland Children's Alliance (MCA) agrees with the underlying intent of this bill to ensure that child advocacy centers operate under standards that ensure the best care for the children we serve. As a result, we are supportive of this legislation as some key amendments have been included to reflect the unique work of Maryland child advocacy centers.

MCA is the nonprofit organization that functions as the State Chapter within the National Children's Alliance and serves as a convener of the 24 child advocacy centers (CACs) in Maryland. CACs are child-focused facilities that help abused children heal by coordinating the multi-disciplinary team response to child physical and sexual abuse, trafficking, and exploitation. CACs also provide children and families with advocacy and case coordination to get the help they need to heal. CAC multi-disciplinary teams are made up of forensic interviewers, family advocates, medical providers, law enforcement, child protective services, trauma therapists, and prosecutors. The multi-disciplinary approach focuses the investigation collaboratively in order to provide the best outcomes for children and communities. Every jurisdiction in the State of Maryland has the ability to respond to allegations of child maltreatment in a way that best supports healing for children who are survivors of abuse.

We applaud the Sponsor's efforts to further standardize CAC response in Maryland. We respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1292.

Sincerely,

Wendy Myers
Executive Director

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