

## 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.*



### **SB0447 - Child Abuse and Neglect – Disclosure of Reports and Records**

**House Judiciary Committee**

**April 2, 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 on SB0447 - Child Abuse and Neglect – Disclosure of Reports and Records.**

SB0447 would expand the circumstances under which a report or record concerning child abuse or neglect may be disclosed by the Department of Human Services to include the administrator of a certain childcare center; the coach, team administrator, or manager of a youth sports program; and the administrator or other appropriate personnel of any organization that provides adult supervision or care and control of children. The administrator of a childcare center, youth sports program, or other youth-serving organization would be notified following a report of suspected child abuse involving one of their employees.

Children and youth are better protected by educating adults on how to create safe environments and prevent child sexual abuse, carefully monitor those who work with children, and conduct thorough background checks of adults who work with children and youth. Youth-serving organizations, including childcare centers and youth sports programs, need to know if an employee is being investigated for suspected child abuse or neglect in order for the organization to determine the suitability of the individual for employment. The organization needs to be able to make informed and appropriate personnel or administrative actions following a report of suspected child abuse. Youth-serving organizations must be able to assess the situation as early and as fully as possible. It must be determined if an adult has clear boundaries and ethical standards when working with children and youth.

Some of the most infamous cases of child abuse have taken place at youth-serving organizations. If we hope to prevent child abuse and create the safest environments for children, we need to engage youth-serving organizations as leaders in the prevention effort, help them become places where child abuse offenders cannot work, and practice policies at every level that better protect children in their care. It is for these reasons that the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children **urges a favorable report on SB0447 - Child Abuse and Neglect – Disclosure of Reports and Records.**<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, Child Justice, Center for Hope, Citizen's Review Board for Children, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA - Baltimore County), Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY), Maryland Children's Alliance, National Association of Social Workers – MD (NASW), the State Council on Child Abuse & Neglect (SCCAN).