



**Caring For Maryland's Most
Important Natural Resource™**

Maryland State Child Care Association

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The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is a non-profit, statewide, professional association incorporated in 1984 to promote the growth and development of child care and learning centers in Maryland. MSCCA has over 5500 members working in the field of child care/early childhood education. We believe children are our most important natural resource and work hard to advocate for children, families and for professionalism within the early childhood community.

House Bill 1034 – Child Care Entities – Child Abuse and Neglect – Training and Reporting Requirements

Submitted to: Ways and Means Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

March 4, 2026

Position: Support with Amendments

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1034.

Maryland State Child Care Association strongly supports the intent of HB 1034 to ensure that child care providers receive ongoing training in the identification, prevention, and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Protecting children is, and must remain, a shared priority. Ensuring that providers understand their responsibilities as mandated reporters under § 5–704 of the Family Law Article is critical to child safety.

Maryland has long demonstrated its commitment to child protection. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) already requires child abuse and neglect training as a component of the basic health and safety training requirements for the entire child care workforce. Providers complete this training as part of pre-service requirements and ongoing professional development. This existing framework reflects Maryland's strong regulatory oversight and commitment to safeguarding children.

HB 1034 builds upon this foundation by requiring:

- Completion of training within six months of employment and every two years thereafter;
- Annual certification of compliance to the Division of Early Childhood Development; and
- Clarification that child care providers are included within the definition of “educator or human service worker” for mandatory reporting purposes.

We support these training and reporting provisions.

However, we must respectfully express serious concerns regarding the enforcement provisions contained in proposed § 9.5–118(D) and (E), specifically the language authorizing **suspension or revocation of a provider's license or a child care entity's license** for violations related to training compliance.

While accountability is important, suspension or revocation of a child care license for training noncompliance would have unintended and far-reaching consequences:

1. **Displacement of Children** – Revocation or suspension of a license can result in immediate closure, displacing children from stable care environments.
2. **Harm to Working Families** – Families depend on reliable child care in order to maintain employment. Sudden program closures create financial and employment instability.
3. **Exacerbation of the Child Care Shortage** – Maryland, like much of the nation, continues to face limited child care capacity. Removing programs from the system due to technical training violations would worsen access challenges.
4. **Disproportionate Penalty** – Training noncompliance, particularly when administrative in nature, should not carry the same consequence as health, safety, or abuse violations.

We believe the bill's goals can be achieved without jeopardizing child care access.

Proposed Amendment

We respectfully request that the Committee amend HB 1034 to:

- Strike all language authorizing suspension or revocation of a provider's license under § 9.5–118(D)(3);
- Strike all language authorizing suspension or revocation of a child care entity's license or registration under § 9.5–118(E); and
- Retain corrective action plans as the primary enforcement mechanism for training noncompliance.

Corrective action plans provide a structured, accountable pathway to compliance while maintaining continuity of care for children and families. This approach aligns enforcement with the nature of the violation and preserves system stability.

In closing, we support the intent and child-protection focus of HB 1034. With amendments to remove suspension and revocation penalties tied to training compliance, this legislation can strengthen oversight without unintentionally harming children and working families.

MSCCA respectfully urges a **favorable report with amendments**.

Thank you for your consideration.