



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

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TO: Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
Delegate Jessica Feldmark, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 3/12/2026
RE: HB1574 - Child Care Providers - Licensing and Registration
Alterations and Workgroup to Study Illegally Provided Child
Care

The MLLC supports - HB1574 - Child Care Providers - Licensing and Registration Alterations and Workgroup to Study Illegally Provided Child Care

The Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The Caucus serves as a critical voice in advancing public policy that uplifts Latino families, entrepreneurs, and workers while strengthening Maryland's broader economy. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB1574 - Child Care Providers - Licensing and Registration Alterations and Workgroup to Study Illegally Provided Child Care.

Maryland's child care system remains under significant strain. The state has approximately 6,700 licensed providers and roughly 205,000 licensed child care slots, yet capacity has not fully recovered to meet demand.¹ Since the pandemic, Maryland has lost an estimated 15% of providers and nearly 7% of child care slots, leaving many families facing long waitlists and limited options. At the same time, child care costs in Maryland remain among the highest in the nation.²

Latino providers are a growing and essential part of this landscape. Their presence has expanded enough to warrant the creation of the Latino Child Care Association of Maryland to support home-based Latino providers and address professional development needs. This growth reflects the increasing role Latino small business owners play in sustaining Maryland's workforce. Delays and unclear processes can threaten their ability to stay open and compliant.

HB1574 supports a more balanced and transparent regulatory framework. By improving background check processing, clarifying enforcement procedures, and establishing a workgroup to study illegally provided child care, the bill protects child safety while reducing unnecessary administrative burdens. Strengthening and stabilizing Latino-owned child care businesses strengthens Maryland's entire child care infrastructure and supports working families statewide.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0759B.

¹https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/meeting_material/2025/w%26m%20-%20134063066152501773%20-%20ChildCarePresentation10-30-25.pdf?

²<https://marylandmatters.org/2024/07/29/child-care-is-scarce-in-maryland-the-nation-and-the-pandemic-made-matters-worse/>