



**TESTIMONY FOR HB1034 – Child Care Entities – Child Abuse and Neglect  
– Training and Reporting Requirements – FAVORABLE**

**Bill Sponsor: Delegates Stinnett, Addison, Fair, Kaufman, Simmons, and Wims**

**Committee: Ways and Means**

**Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition**

**Person Submitting: Jessica Gorski, Executive Committee**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Gorski, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1034 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations representing more than 30,000 Marylanders across every legislative district. Our mission is grounded in the belief that government must safeguard the lives, health, and dignity of all Marylanders, especially children, who rely on adults and institutions to ensure their safety and well-being.

HB1034 advances that mission by strengthening training, accountability, and reporting requirements for childcare providers and childcare entities across the state.

This bill requires childcare providers to complete training at specified intervals on the identification, prevention, and reporting of child abuse and neglect. It also requires each childcare entity to certify to the Division of Early Childhood Development within the Maryland State Department of Education that all providers comply with these training requirements. Additionally, the bill establishes penalties for providers and entities that fail to meet these standards and reinforces the obligation to provide notice or make reports when child abuse or neglect is suspected.

These protections are essential.

Childcare providers are often the first adults outside the home to observe signs of abuse or neglect. Their ability to recognize and appropriately report concerns can be the difference between continued harm and timely intervention. Yet

without consistent, high-quality training, providers may miss warning signs or feel uncertain about their reporting responsibilities. **HB1034 ensures that every provider receives the knowledge and tools necessary to protect the children in their care.**

The bill also strengthens accountability by requiring childcare entities to certify compliance with training requirements. This creates a clear, enforceable standard across the state and ensures that providers and entities understand the seriousness of their obligations. As the bill synopsis notes, HB1034 “establishes certain penalties for providers and childcare entities who violate certain requirements,” reinforcing that child safety cannot be optional or inconsistent.

This approach balances support and enforcement. It ensures that providers are properly trained while also making clear that failure to meet these responsibilities carries consequences. This is especially important given the profound vulnerability of the children served by Maryland’s childcare system.

HB1034 aligns directly with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. It promotes public safety, strengthens child protection systems, and ensures that Maryland’s youngest residents are cared for in environments where adults are trained, vigilant, and accountable. **No child should be placed in a setting where signs of abuse or neglect go unnoticed or unreported.**

**We respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report on HB1034.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jessica Gorski  
Executive Committee  
Maryland Legislative Coalition