



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Jeanelle K. Wilkins
The Honorable Jessica Feldmark
House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: Request for a **FAVORABLE Report with Amendments** – HB 430—Family Child Care Providers—National Guard and Military Reserve Members—Substitute Providers

Dear Chairman Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark and Distinguished Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition and as their Communications Director, I write to recommend a **Favorable Report with Amendments** by the Committee on **HB 430—Family Child Care Providers—National Guard and Military Reserve Members—Substitute Providers** sponsored by Delegate Kerr. This bill requires a family child care provider who is a member of the National Guard or military reserves to designate a substitute to provide family child care for not more than 45 working days in any 12-month period while the family child care provider is absent for required training and active service. While well intended, I believe that the bill needs some additional safeguards.

Currently, Family Child Care licensure is under the Maryland Department of Education. Under COMAR 13A.15.06.03 Provider Substitute, the Department requires the following: the individual must be approved by the office; be 18 or older; familiar with the regulation; have a medical exam within the past 12 months; have a background check; and, present no risk to children. Section 03.C(2) stipulates that the use of a substitute is limited to a total of not more than 20 working days in any 12-month period unless “the office approves additional days”. The regulation requires that the provider orient the substitute to child health and safety matters before care begins. These include among others the location of first aid supplies and child emergency forms, medication administration; emergency evacuation procedures and permissible and appropriate child release procedures among others. **A substitute is responsible for meeting the requirements of the regulation regarding supervision and protections of each child in care and operation of the family child care home.** The same regulation requires that an “Additional Adult, a second “helper” providing care while the provider is present, hold a current certificate indicating successful completion of approved basic first aid and CPR training applicable to children younger than two and evidence of having completed approved SIDS training within the previous 5 years.

While a substitute is intended to provide care during a temporary absence, or to assist in providing care while the provider is present, this bill proposes that a substitute designee take over operation of the family child care home with no training for a period of up to 45 working days in a 12-month period, more than twice the current limitation. This individual could be in charge of up to eight children, of whom not more than two can be under the age of two. This seems incongruent with presenting “no risk to children”.

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The Maryland Military Coalition recommends that the HB 430 be amended to require, at the minimum, that a substitute for a family care provider who is activated for training or active duty, have the equivalent training of an “additional adult” (current CPR and First Aid, and SIDS training within five years) and, in addition, training in communicable disease recognition and transmission prevention and medication administration.

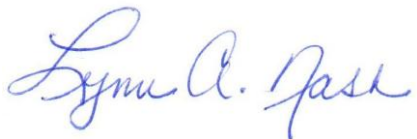
Maryland is experiencing a crisis in available child care. The number of children who need child care exceeds the number of slots available, whether in child care facilities, or smaller, more intimate family child care centers, especially during this time when Child Care Scholarships have been frozen. A family child care provider, should not be punished, possibly loosing his/her business, while completing their military duty.

The Maryland Military Coalition *supports* the need for assisting reservists who are called to training or active duty maintain their livelihoods. However, **HB 430 as written, creates a risk to children.** Therefore, the Coalition supports the spirit of HB 430 but recommends that **to receive a Favorable report, that the bill be amended to require basic-level training for family child care substitute providers relieving a provider for up to 45 days.**

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

The Coalition thanks Delegate Kerr for sponsoring this important legislation and his support of the Maryland uniformed services community. To learn more about our organization, please visit our [website](#).

Respectfully,



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CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

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Reserve Organization of America

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Veterans of Foreign Wars