



**Testimony Concerning SB 305:  
“Family Child Care Providers – High School Diploma or GED Test”  
Submitted to the Senate Education, Health  
and Environmental Affairs Committee  
February 17, 2016**

**Position: Support**

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports SB 305, which will establish a high school diploma or an equivalent educational attainment as a minimum educational level for registered family child care providers.

MCC has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and other supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on child care policy and are strongly committed to ensuring that children, along with their working parents, have access to high quality, affordable child care programs and qualified staff.

Children and their families must have access to child care that meets their needs, and family child care is an important component of the early childhood education delivery system. As of November 2015, Maryland had more than 6,600 registered family child care providers with the capacity to serve more than 50,000 children, or 23% of the licensed child care capacity in the State. Child care teachers in center-based programs are required to have a high school diploma, a certificate of equivalence or credit for successful completion of a college course. This bill will set the minimum educational requirement for family child care providers who become registered after the bill’s effective date at the same level as the requirement for child care center teachers. Currently registered providers will not be required to meet the new requirement.

The educational attainment of a child care provider is correlated with the quality of the program. Public pre-K programs require teachers to have bachelor’s degrees and teacher certification. Head Start teachers must have associate’s degrees or a Child Development Associate credential. Registered family child care providers should meet the same minimum educational level as child care center teachers. The Office of Child Care will need to continue to make resources available in their Regional Offices and the Child Care Resource Centers to assist family child care provider applicants who have come to this country as adults and do not have access to their educational records from their native country.

We understand that the bill sponsor intends to propose an amendment to conform the educational requirement for family child care providers to the current requirement for child care center teachers. We support this amendment.

MFN urges your favorable consideration of SB 305 with the sponsor’s amendment.



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