



Testimony Concerning HB 404
“Vehicle Laws - Speed Monitoring Systems - Child Care Centers”
Submitted to the House Environment & Transportation Committee
January 21, 2021

Position: Support

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports HB 404, which would authorize the placement and use of speed monitoring systems (speed cameras) on a highway within a one-half mile radius of a child care center with a posted speed limit of 20 miles per hour or more, subject to existing requirements for the placement of speed cameras.

As Maryland's largest and oldest statewide child advocacy organization, MFN is strongly committed to ensuring the health and well-being of children across our state. MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the quality of life for Maryland children and their families. We are committed to a process that identifies and addresses factors affecting the well-being of children and youth.

Child care centers are licensed by the Office of Child Care (OCC). The OCC enforces regulations to ensure the safety of children in care, including when children are outdoors. Regulations around playground and water safety, fences, drop-off and pick-up procedures, and outdoor supervision are all in place to ensure child safety. A reduction in the speed of vehicle traffic adjacent to a child care center could contribute to child safety.

In our role as the Statewide Coordinating Entity of the Maryland Child Care Resource Network (MCCRN), Maryland Family Network publishes the annual [Child Care Demographics](#) report as a work for hire for the benefit of, and with funds from, the Maryland State Department of Education. The report breaks down statewide information about demand, supply, and cost of child care in Maryland and includes data on the location of child care centers in each of Maryland's 23 counties, and the City of Baltimore. This data could be used to inform the placement of speed monitoring systems.

MFN respectfully urges the Committee's favorable consideration of HB 404.