



Testimony Concerning HB 292
“Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing - Exemptions”
Submitted to the House Ways & Means Committee
February 8, 2023

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Maryland Family Network (MFN) respectfully requests clarifying amendments to HB 292, which codifies and expands a licensing exemption for child care programs that are certified by the Department of Defense (DOD) and that serve military families.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and early childhood education, as well as 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 parents, have access to high-quality, affordable programs and educational opportunities.

Child care programs (centers and family child care homes) that are located on a military base are currently exempt from Maryland licensing requirements. The proposed legislation would codify the exemption and extend it to cover DOD-certified child care programs that are located off-base.

MFN’s proposed amendments would clarify that the off-base exemption applies only to DOD-certified child care programs that serve military families exclusively, which we believe is the intent of the legislation. If the off-base programs wished to provide care to civilian children as well, the programs would need to seek a State child care license.

MFN has shared our suggestions for clarification with the bill sponsor. It is our understanding that she will consider them friendly amendments.

MFN respectfully requests the following amendments to HB 292:

On page 2, after line 5, delete the period and insert “AND SERVES ONLY DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL.”

On page 2, after line 27, delete the period and insert “AND SERVES ONLY DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL.”