

## **HB 1144**

### **Testimony of Mary Frances Keller**

**January 18, 2023**

Good morning, my name is Mary Frances Keller, and I am a social work student. I am here in favor of HB1144. My work experience with children began in 2016 and I have been required to go through mandated reporter training myself on several occasions. During the 2018-2019 school year, while working as a childcare teacher I had to call Child Protective Services for a case of suspected child abuse. Had I not been required to re-certify as a mandated reporter in the fall of that school year I would not have been as equipped to make that difficult call and advocate for the safety of that child. I had been trained previously but having not used what I had learned, much of it was lost until I was trained again. This training we are speaking about today is efficient, simple, and helpful for those of us who work with children. While it may be viewed as redundant, I believe that it is necessary to ensure action from educators and early childhood service providers. Thank you for your time.