



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman  
Maryland Federation of Republican Women  
PO Box 6040, Annapolis MD 21401  
Email: eee437@comcast.net

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chairman  
And Members of the Judiciary Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB 0618** – Maryland Parental Rights Act – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly supports HB 0618 Maryland Parental Rights Act. HB 0618 will protect the first amendment rights of parents to testify on issues affecting their children's education at regular meetings of their County Boards of Education. Over the past months, we have witnessed several Boards of Education that have limited and even eliminated the opportunity for public testimony at their meetings. HB 0618 will also prohibit Boards of Education from withholding information on a child's physical or mental health or well-being from their parents or guardians.

Children prosper and learn best when parents are engaged in their education and daily activities. Withholding information from parents about their children's academic program, school clubs or activities, or health evaluations or treatments hinders the parents' ability to properly fulfill their parental responsibilities.

This legislation protects a parent's right to know what their children are being taught and requires a path for them to object to instruction or materials that violate their moral and/or religious beliefs. Further, it protects their vitally important right to make decisions on their child's healthcare and treatments.

Parents, not the school system, are responsible for the health and welfare of their children. A government bureaucracy cannot know a child as well as a parent, and should not have the power to usurp parental rights. HB 0618 protects parents and their children by providing that, before the State can terminate parental rights, the parent(s) have a right to be tried by a jury. .

HB 0618 has many protections for parents and children. Please give HB 0618 a **FAVORABLE** Report.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis  
Legislative Chairman