

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to provide written testimony in support of HB618. Parental choice in medical and education for our beloved children is vital. We ask as parents you consider how important it is to Marylanders. We have learned over the past two years what it's like to not have those rights and freedoms and as a parent, it's very scary.

- Parents have the fundamental right to understand and direct how their children are educated.
- Parents are tax-paying citizens and have the right to engage in civic participation in the development and implementation of public school programs and curricula.
- Parents have the fundamental right to direct and to refuse any medical treatments or interventions which might be administered to students in school settings.
- Parents ***must retain*** the fundamental right to discover and direct the care of their children while those children are attending school, including the full content of information to which the children are exposed, and any medical treatment or intervention, including mental healthcare administered.

Thank you for your time for this very important matter.

Laura Hartman