



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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The Honorable William Smith, Chairman
And Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **SB 0438** – Fundamental Parental Rights – **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members,

The right of parents to direct the upbringing and care of their children has always been a fundamental tenet of American law and practice.

Since the 1990s, government agencies and some courts have steadily infringed upon the rights of parents to make decisions for, and to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children.

SB 0438 clearly restates the inherent rights of parents. This explicit statement of parental rights is necessary to restrain government overreach. It is critical to a parent who finds it necessary to challenge or object to an educational or health mandate (vaccination mandates, sex education curricula, mental health treatments, social media, and other areas of concern).

This bill does not remove existing safeguards against parental abuse. SB 0438 clearly states that it does not authorize a parent of a minor child in the State to engage in conduct that is unlawful, or to abuse or neglect their minor child in violation of State law.

Parents, and families as the basic unit of our society, have been under enormous pressure in recent decades. SB 0438 supports families by making it clear that parents are the primary decision makers and caregivers for their children.

Please give **SB 0438** a **FAVORABLE** Report.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women