JUSTIN READY
Legislative District 5
Carroll County

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 14, 2024

SB 438 – Family Law – Fundamental Parental Rights

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

SB 438 would establish that a parent has the fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of the parent's child. Also, the state would be prohibited from infringing on a parent's fundamental right to do so.

It is important to note that this bill does not only protect a parent's right who belongs to one political party. This legislation would protect ALL parent's fundamental rights to raise their child as they see fit, and protect them from school systems, community organizations, or medical professionals from imposing their personal beliefs onto someone else's child.

SB 438 would not affect curriculum in schools and does not give the parents authority to change the curriculum for entire school systems. What it seeks to do is establish a parent's fundamental right to raise their child without pushback from the state.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 438.