

## **UNFAVORABLE on SB0708**

### **Family Law - Kinship Care**

vmcavoy baltimore maryland

Dear Senators of JPR,

There have been innumerable times when domestic violence crowds and family law attorneys and members of the Bar have told you that “each family law case is reviewed individually”. They told you that child custody cases are not cookie-cutter outcomes. That should be the case.

When a parent is out of the picture, this must absolutely be the case.

Maryland is still having trouble getting grandparent visitation out of 2 chambers. Fatherhood has been denigrated in this state for decades. “De facto” friends of the family have crept in where other parents have legal rights. Maryland ignores the law to promote aberrant familial structures.

These cases must and do get worked in family law courts and “CiNA” courts. This bill will move Maryland judges and various, ideological agencies to harm children by not serving their family bonds, the families’ legal rights and the tradition of the children and their family.

While it is possible that the Chair and I see this in the same vein, there are currently processes in Maryland – when attended to – which ensure that the children are taken care of in such a manner that fit biological parents again uphold their responsibility to their children and society. I have seen far, far too many instances where a parental absence for a small period of time becomes a forever assault against family cohesion.

So it is worth stating yet again – children rights never trump parental rights but in parens patriae cases. Individuals who step in for a missing parent should step out when the biological parent or parents provide fit parenting. This truism is rife in Maryland court rulings, appellate rulings and SCOTUS rulings.

I urge an UNFavorable for this inhuman approach of SB0708.

humbly offered

~vince