

February 7, 2024

Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, Maryland

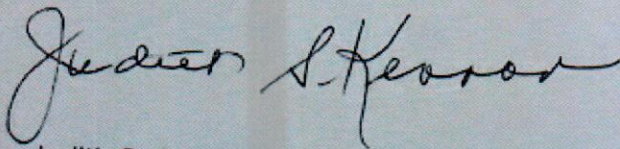
Dear Members:

As a lifetime resident of the state of Maryland, I implore you to move on and to please pass state bill 365 supporting the professional training of child custody evaluators. It is imperative that the courts see these persons as fully credentialed, unbiased, neutral, not manipulated or bribed in any way. In the past, unqualified evaluators have wrecked havoc on the lives of not only the children of these cases, but their families and extended families as well! In some cases careers and businesses have been directly affected. The stigma surrounding these families involved had also had negative repercussions.

As the writer of this plea, I speak from the experience of my daughter, her children and my beautiful family. Child custody evaluators must be professionally trained individuals. I am a retired adjunct faculty member of Salisbury University's Department of Education with my Masters Degree in education from the University of Maryland. Having professionally trained persons involved with all aspects of the lives of our children is essential.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith S. Kennan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Judith S. Kennan
404 Forest Lane
Salisbury, Maryland

February 7, 2024

Senator Will Smith
Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Senator Jeff Waldstreicher
Senator Chris West

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **SB365/HB405 - Family Law - Child Custody Evaluators - Qualifications and Training**

I am a General Dentist in Wicomico County. I was abused by a prior spouse. I am on the Credentialing team for Blue Cross and Blue Shield Dental of Maryland and I am constituent of Senator Mary Beth Carozza District 38 (Business Add:1820 Sweetbay Dr #104, Salisbury, MD 21804) and Senator Johnny Mautz District 37 (Home Add: 5677 N Nithsdale Dr, Salisbury, MD 21801).

I am in Support of Senate Bill 365/ HB405 passing through for the State of Maryland. I am an Example of where the Judicial System in our County did not have proper Custodial Evaluation of my custody case in 2021. The court systems utilized custodial opinions of two Social Workers, who were not trained in Custodial Evaluations and they were not our Court Ordered Custody Evaluator. They were not Neutral, Unbiased, and were Not Trained in Coercive/Manipulation of an Abused Parent and Children.

They breached the Ethics Rules for the Board of the State of Maryland for Social Works and the Board of the Psychiatric/ Psychology - by a DUAL ROLE breach. One individual was a CPS Evaluator, Individual/ Family Therapist, & Custodial Opinion by a Social Worker. The other was a Court Ordered Child Therapist, CPS Evaluator, Individual/ Family Therapist, & Custodial Opinion by a Social Worker. Both shared the same professional therapeutic office & common areas (full office is less than 600 square feet). They both continued with personal CPS evaluations of myself and my children for over three years after dismissal of our CPS case in 2018. (all without a signed consent for any legal therapeutic evaluation or therapeutic care of myself and my children). The mental and physical abuse still continues for my children at their other parents' residence.

I am requesting full support of SB Bill 365/ HB405 due to the failure of our Judicial System to create Professional Boundaries of all Custodial Evaluators/ Evaluations - and proper Safety of parents who have been Abused and the Safety of those children involved in Highly Contested Custody Cases.

Honorably and Respectfully -

Kelly S Kennan, DDS
Salisbury, MD 21801