

May 26, 2006

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 435 - *Family Law - Denial of Custody or Visitation - Murder Convictions*.

This bill prohibits a court, unless good cause for the award of custody or visitation is shown, from awarding custody of a child or visitation with a child to a parent who has been found guilty of first degree or second degree murder of specified persons; and authorizes the court to approve a supervised visitation arrangement that assures the safety and well-being of the child if visitation is in the best interest of the child.

Senate Bill 76, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 435.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor