

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

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March 4, 2020

To: The Chair and Members of the Maryland House Judiciary Committee

I write regarding Maryland House Bill 1242, Fundamental Parental Rights, which was introduced by Maryland Delegate Daniel L. Cox.

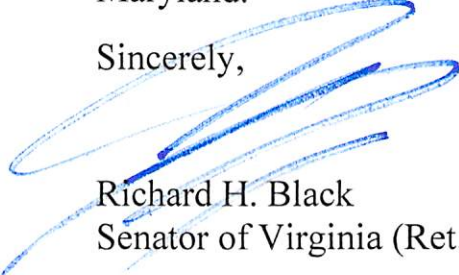
I served 16 years in the Virginia House and Senate until retiring this January. I supported a matching bill in this state. We had no problems with its implementation.

I encourage Members of the Committee to support Maryland House Bill 1242. During the 2013 Session of the Virginia General Assembly, we passed SB 908, which also recognized the fundamental right of parents to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of their own children.

The measure introduced by Delegate Cox provides legal clarity to the vital rights traditionally recognized as belonging to parents. The Virginia General Assembly felt it appropriate to incorporate those rights into law, and they are now reflected in the Code of Virginia as sec. 1-240.1.

I respectfully recommend that the Maryland General Assembly pass House Bill 1242, so that the rights of parents will receive similar statutory recognition in Maryland.

Sincerely,


Richard H. Black
Senator of Virginia (Ret.)