

Good Afternoon,

My name is Josh Mazer and I'm a father, resident of Maryland, and Board member of Informed Choice Maryland, and I strongly support HB1242 for the following reasons:

This bill upholds the fundamental rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of their children; rights which have been put at risk by numerous public and private institutions and even some proposed legislation in recent years, which could possibly undermine or usurp parental authority.

Parents demonstrably have the highest vested interest in their children's welfare and are best equipped to make important decisions for their children regarding their care. Each child and each family is unique, and parents have by far the greatest personal investment and the most detailed and accurate information informing decisions about children's health and welfare.

The state provides remedies for rare cases in which children are living in circumstances of abuse and neglect. There is no context in which it's necessary or appropriate for the state legislature to pass laws which undermine or usurp the authority of all parents, the vast majority of whom provide much better care and decision-making for their children than the state is capable of providing.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1979 (Parham vs J.R.): "Most children, even in adolescence, simply are not able to make sound judgements concerning many decisions, including their need for medical care or treatment. Parents can and must make those judgements."

I strongly urge you to support HB1242 which upholds the fundamental rights of parents in Maryland to make sound judgements regarding the health and welfare of our kids.

Thank you,

Joshua Mazer
Annapolis, Maryland
jamazer@verizon.net