

Gentlemen,

I am writing in support of Delegate Dan Cox's Bill HB1242 - Fundamental Parental Rights.

It is a parents right and responsibility to look out for what is best for our children. We have their best interests in mind. Maryland legislators recently tried to introduce laws eroding those rights by giving children under the age of 14 the ability to consent to medical procedures that could be detrimental to their safety. Only a parent/guardian knows a child's complete medical history. Even if that were not the case, only a parent/guardian has the right to made life altering decisions for their children, under normal circumstances. Punishing the majority, is not what government is supposed to do.

I support Del. Cox's bill because it upold's the fundamental rights of parents to direct their child's medical needs, education, religion and family morals. No one is better than family to make these decisions for children who lack the maturity to do so.

We have laws in place that already provide remedies in the rare cases where children are abuse or neglected and others must intervene for their safety. The Supreme court has ruled several times how the parents are in charge of and responsible for the upbringing of their children. In 1979 they ruled "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 urge you to support the passage of this legislation.

Thank you
Cindy Rose