

I am writing to express my support of HB1242. I've been a citizen of the state of Maryland for over 20 years. I am also a parent of a child that resides in Maryland with me.

As a Judiciary Committee member, I ask that you uphold the will of the parents, grandparents, and legal guardians of the state of Maryland by passing HB1242.

- This bill upholds the fundamental rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of their children, which has been under attack this session in certain proposed legislation.
- Parents clearly have the highest vested interest in their children's welfare and are best equipped to make important decisions for their children regarding their care.
- 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's specific needs than the state is capable of providing.
- Freedoms did not come to us free. It should be said that those in a position to take away freedoms should not be doing so by the stroke of a pen nor by a vote among select groups in politics. Loving parents and close families must retain the freedom to guide their youth into adulthood without government officials' interference. Thank you for defending what our forefathers and service men and women have fought and died for which is our freedoms.
- The Supreme Court ruled in 1979: "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."
 - <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-supreme-court/442/584.html>

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