

I am Dr. Sophia Marjanovic, PhD in immunology and microbiology

I trained at NIH in Bethesda.

I am of the Oceti Sakowin tribe.

I am a survivor of domestic violence, police misconduct, and legal abuse that lead me to lose my 28 month old breastfeeding son

In 2012, I was attacked holding my 10 day old newborn son.

I lost custody of my son to our abuser.

I have suffered for years, even becoming completely debilitated from pain struggling to feel safe in my own body after dealing with corruption in the courts and in the social services departments in the State of Maryland. I have successfully gotten at least a psychologist trying to force me to interact with our abuser declared a danger to the public by the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

I eventually became homeless and enslaved in human trafficking as a result of becoming completely disabled from the physical and emotional pain I have sustained in dealing with the inability to protect my son from abuse.

I have been in therapy for years trying to heal, but when the system is so unsafe, I need the system to be repaired to BE safe.

SB 355 will fundamentally change nothing for survivors just like the Termination of Parental Rights Bill in 2018 passed and signed into law by the Maryland General Assembly fundamentally changed nothing to protect children from rapists.

The reason nothing will fundamentally change is because the court already has discretion to decide qualifications and training by custody evaluations.

When this bill states "the court MAY not appoint or approve an individual as a custody evaluator" instead of stating "the court SHALL not appoint or approve an individual as a custody evaluator" nothing will fundamentally change in the courts

Nothing else in the bill matters after that statement in the bill because this bill is political theater to make survivors who don't know any better go chase our tails for awhile before we come back to you crying that nothing has changed. This is a bill meant to kick the can down the road in providing any accountability in the courts. Shame on you.

I demand an amendment that the bill states, "the court SHALL not appoint or approve an individual as a custody evaluator."