

January 24,2022

To Whom It May Concern:

In regard to bill SB0029, my position is FAVORABLE. I am a pediatric RN in Annapolis Maryland and although I feel that no child should be able to marry prior to age 18, this bill provides a compromise allowing a 17 year old to file for emancipation in order to be married. If the court approves the minor's application for marriage, at least this will not allow the parents of the child to allow their child to be married without the child's consent.

As a pediatric RN, I have unfortunately seen a number of children who have married prior to age 18 and often it has been to much older men. This is a set up for abuse from a husband who becomes the legal guardian for this child. I am so disappointed that for the past four years, a similar bill has been introduced requiring the child to be 18, a legal adult, before being allowed to marry. This bill, SB0029, that has been brought before you this year is the absolute minimum that should be approved. The safety of minor children is what is at stake here.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

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