

# Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

5900 Abriana Way, Elkridge, Maryland 21075

From: Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

To: Chairman William Smith JR.

Re: SB 41 Family Law – Child Custody and Visitation

Date: January 26, 2022

Dear: Chairman Clippinger,

The Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. is in Favor of SB 41

We represent the Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness). We were established in 2000, our mission is “To create an atmosphere of understanding in dentistry and other professional communities which will result in the prevention of abuse and neglect through early identification and appropriate intervention for those who have been abused or neglected.” Dentists and Dental Hygienists (Dental Professionals) are mandated by the State of Maryland to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect. Our coalition has established a Continuing Education (CE) course that educates Dental Professionals and other how to recognize, report, or refer. The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners has deemed this course as a mandatory CE requirement for Dentists and Hygienists to renew their licenses. We also address domestic violence, elder abuse and human trafficking in our CE course.

This bill will prevent a perpetrator of an abused or neglected child from having custody or visitation rights to that child. It can also authorize the court to approve supervised visitation. It will help to protect the child victim and not put them in harm’s way. It is the courts responsibility to be sure that anyone who has visitation rights or custody will not harm that child.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 41 and we ask for a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

Carol Caiazzo, RDH President

Susan Camardese, RDH, MS, Vice President