Taylor House Office Building, Room 101

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, Md 21401

January 24, 2022

RE: Favor HB 83 Emancipation of a Minor and Authorization to Marry

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my favor of HB 83, as it combats child marriages and promotes the rights of minors. As a parent I am concerned of the trauma that minors can suffer when adults force negative life decisions on them. Statistically, minors who have been adversely influenced and suffered at the hands of adult motives, struggle to establish a healthy lifestyle and make their own decisions.

The sponsors of HB 83 realize the need to have safeguards in place to protect minors from being forced or coerced into nonconsensual marriage that can lead to abusive relationships. Unless the law is changed, we cannot protect our children.

Minors 15 years of age do not have the ability to make an informed decisions regarding marriage. The legalization of marriage at the age of 15 makes it acceptable for forced and arranged marriages to dominate persons.

HB 83 will raise the age limit of marriage to 17 and limit the age of the spouse to an acceptable age range that promotes the same level of maturity of the intended partners. I am in favor of the intent of HB 83 to have precautions in place to deter persons of authority and persons with criminal offenses against children to marry minors.

The sponsors of HB 83 are sensitive to know that life changes and although the marriage may be consensual, the minor is to be provided with information that may be needed in the future. The overall well-being of minors should be paramount as we move forward to having wholesome adults in our future. In 2022 the constitution of marriage should not be filled with fear but be a lifetime commitment to the person you love.

For all the above I urge you to pass HB 83.

Sincerely,

Ada C. Brown
Constituent

Adabrown48@yahoo.com

1040 E 33rd Street, Apt 416

Baltimore, MD 21218
410-585-4732