

DANIEL L. COX  
*Legislative District 4*  
Frederick and Carroll Counties

Judiciary Committee

*Subcommittees*

Civil Law and Procedure  
Family and Juvenile Law

Task Force to Study Crime  
Classification and Penalties



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**Favorable Testimony HB564, Family Law – Child Custody and Visitation –  
Disease or Illness**

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon and committee members:

When parents have difficulties in their relationships their children often suffer. HB546 is a straight forward bill that would prevent an illness from being used to deny child custody or visitation. The Center for Disease Control asked the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to review published information on parenting. The committee found several things that support a child's healthy development, like showing warmth and sensitivity to others. They also found that successful intervention programs supporting the healthy development of children were ones that treated parents as equal partners in important decision making; addressed trauma; and made an effort to involve fathers. Illness of a parent is trauma enough for children without it being used as a weapon against a parent. Such behavior does not serve the child well and goes against several of those very things that NASEM found to benefit child development.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report for HB564, Family Law – Child Custody and Visitation – Disease or Illness

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Cox".

Delegate Dan Cox, District 4  
Frederick and Carroll Counties