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To: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee 1/26/2023

The amended version of SB42 states that:

The court shall consider a proposed relocation from a minor child's primary residence that would significantly interfere with the other parent's ability to maintain the predetermined parenting time schedule when deciding whether to grant an expedited hearing on a Motion for Modification of Custody.

Relocation can sometimes interfere with parenting time, can be a form of custodial interference and cause considerable harm to a child's relationship with a parent. This is all the more so when the relocating parent is attempting to alienate the child from the other parent.

The Maryland Judicial Conference expressed reservations last session that each circuit court has a differentiated case management plan that includes procedures for emergency relief and expedited case processing in family law actions. They also expressed that terms such as ""shall" limit judicial discretion and the court's ability to consider each child's unique facts and circumstances. The current amendment adequately addresses these concerns.

SB42 does not address the need for expedited hearings in cases where a parent already relocated without court permission Such relocation can set the stage for abduction and parental alienation. It is extremely important to expedite such cases to prevent the creation of a status quo that will prevent a child for enjoying the benefits of a relationship with the other parent. We would like to see this amended in to the bill as well, but nevertheless support SB42 as is. I urge the committee to give a favorable report on SB42. Thank you.

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