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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 383 – Notice of Intent to Travel (Maryland Child Abduction Prevention Act)

February 12, 2023

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and members of the committee,

There is nothing more important than the well-being and safety of our children. They are the most vulnerable of our society and they deserve nothing more than security and their innocence to be protected. Thus, they should feel the safest with their parents, but what happens when the unthinkable happens and a parent, kidnaps their own child to prevent them from seeing the child's other parent? As of now, it is not seen as a crime, as they are, afterall, the child's parent.

In this bill, a court has the authority to require either parent or guardian of a custody proceeding to provide advanced written notice to the court and the other parent or guardian of the intent to travel outside of the United States with the child or children. The court is also authorized to order abduction prevention measures in a child custody proceeding if there is credible risk with evidence established. This will in turn, establish procedures by which a parent or guardian can take to file such a case. If passed, this will apply retroactively and would be interpreted to affect any parent desiring to travel internationally with their child or children.

I thank you for your time and I ask for a favorable vote.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike McKay

Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland

Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties