

Written Testimony of Thomas P. and Tina M. Wilson

RE: In Support of House Bill HB0666 - Family Law - Fundamental Parental Rights

February 20, 2023

As citizens of the state of Maryland, we enthusiastically support Maryland **House Bill HB0666**. This testimony seeks to express our rationale for support of **HB0666**.

The fundamental rights of parents to determine what is best for their children and families have been usurped by the Maryland Departments of Education and Department of Health and Human Services to name the major culprits. Parents have been vilified and subjected to intolerance by local School Boards for trying to protect their children from social and sexual indoctrination. Public health officials drove vaccine mandates for school children even though all the scientific evidence indicated school age children were at very low risk. And the onslaught continues in this year's legislative session with bills such as HB0119 and SB0378.

It is no surprise that States across the country are moving to enact laws that protect fundamental parental rights. It wasn't long ago that parents trusted their elected officials and school boards to assure that their children were being educated in a way that prepared them for success, but those days are now gone. Parents have awoken to the reality that they can no longer trust that their interests are being respected and protected. As this bill receives consideration during the 2023 session, the sponsors may want to refer to other legislation making headway in other states. For example, Senate Bill 49 in the State of North Carolina encompasses similar intent with more specific guidance in several fundamental areas.

The education disruption brought on by COVID, and the insidious inclusion of Critical Race Theory and sexual indoctrination material into school curriculum, has energized parents and taxpayers alike. They are demanding a change in direction and that their parental rights be protected.

We strongly support HB0666 and believe it absolutely necessary to protect our children from Government overreach.