

Witness: Katherine Strauch Sullivan
Jurisdiction: Baltimore County
Bill: HB666 Family Law- Fundamental Parental Rights
Committee: House Judiciary
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Committee,

I am writing in support of HB666.

HB666 places into law what, up until just a few short years ago, was common sense to most parents. This bill will unequivocally clarify parent/guardian rights to direct the moral and/or religious upbringing, medical care and health decisions, and informed consent issues of their minor children.

The role of the parent/guardian should be central not ancillary. Parents should have the final say in all important decisions with regard to their minor children, except where there is provable, legally argued harm.

All of the above is arguably my personal opinion. **An “opinion” based on a millennia of evidence supporting the fact that the family unit is the most effect and ideal vessel for providing the nurturing and support so critical to human development** - but nevertheless, I admit, it’s my opinion. Fortunately, the Supreme Court agrees. In the Supreme Court Case, *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* (1925), the ruling held that “the fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in this Union repose excludes any general power of the State to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. The child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.” As well,

It is for these above reasons 26 states have already introduced Parental Rights bills similar to HB666 in their state legislature. Gloriously, 15 have signed them into law.

We hope Maryland will join with these forward thinking and common-sense leaders vote yes in support of HB666.

HB666 is necessary. Vote in support of HB666.

Sincerely,

Katherine Sullivan
Mother of 4 Maryland Public School Children
Baltimore County