

HB666- Fundamental Parental Rights

I am Laura Hartman and a lifetime resident of MD. I am testifying for what I believe is a fundamental right of every parent. I'm quite frankly concerned that we even need to have a bill like this. Parental rights are a fundamental right for every child born in Maryland. Being a parent is one of the greatest blessings ever and we need to protect all of Maryland citizens, as parents and children.

I believe that parents should have the right to direct their child's medical care, educational care, physical and emotional development, access to religious beliefs, and cultural enrichment, etc.

Studies have proven that a child's brain is not fully developed until the age of 25. Without parental involvement, children can be put at grave risk.

You have seen across the nation how strongly parents are trying to protect their children. The "momma bear" drive is real and why we have seen so much involvement. We are made as parents to protect our children. The science is clear on brain activity, endorphins and hormone release when threats and nurturing are involved. With this bill, parents will have the legal protection that nature already gave us.

This isn't a race, religion, sex, political affiliation, or otherwise divisive issue. This is a human rights issue that every parent no matter gay, straight, married, single, black, white, adoptive, naturally or foster, should be legally afforded.

Please vote favorable for HB666.