

February 20, 2023

Dear Delegate Miller:

I am writing to support HB666 because as a parent of three sons, I along with my husband, share the the sole and primary to:

- upbringing them
- choose the education options which best need each of their individual needs,
- discuss and decide their healthcare needs partly are already dictated by mandated vaccines to attend public school
- discuss and decide other optional vaccines including the flu shot are for us as their parents to decide after speaking and discussing with their pediatricians,
- ensure their welfare including providing their food, housing, emotional support, additional educational supplemental support, and prevention of being harmed or physically hurt.

I am committed to ensure that MY OWN CHILDREN who I bore receive what they need and thus support this bill to also permit other parents to decide according to their own needs, preferences and understanding their own children's uniqueness to respect their own sole and primary responsibilities.

I am hopeful that I can in person give testimony on our unique journey and also share that our children have distinct needs, being that one of our sons was born a micro-preemie weighing 1.6 lbs. at 24 weeks gestational age. I plan to offer physical evidence that I am the only person who should and will decide what is best for my three sons as their mother. Each of my sons learns differently, each has different interests, each has unique challenges, each deserves to be treated with special care and dignity just as each child should in Maryland by their own parent(s).

Thank you for permitting both the opportunity to submit written and in person testimony in the important issue to establish that a parent has the fundamental right to direct all the aforementioned which is not an all encompassing list that as parents we have the privilege and honor to do which is primarily is to take care of our own, provide for own, protect our own and prepare our own.

Thank you,

Blanca Tapahuasco
Baltimore City Mama