

SB 0948 Parental Rights Bill- Support

To: Members of the Senate Education, Energy and Environment

Parental Rights are the foundation of any society. Parents are their child's primary caretaker, teacher, advocate, role model, protector and influencer. Parents are the ones who are there for every milestone, every illness, every heartbreak, and every accomplishment. As a principal I worked with once told me, "When a parent brings their child to our school, they are bringing us their best hopes for the future. We must safeguard that relationship and our relationship with parents so we can work together."

As a teacher of over thirty years, I can testify that when I was able to work with parents and understand what they wanted for their children, I was able to teach that child so much more effectively. Not only that, but children whose parents were involved in educational decision making, were much happier, well-adjusted children.

Somehow, the State of Maryland has forgotten that fundamental truth. So, let me remind you. The government is NOT a child's parent. A teacher is NOT a child's parent. Legislators are NOT a child's parent. Government officials will not be there during sleepless nights when a parent is getting their child through illness or any other time a child needs a parent.

Yet, in our schools, some have decided that parents don't need to see and know what is taught to their children. They hide curriculum. They hide from parents conversations that school staff has with children all in the fraudulent claim that they are "protecting the child." They are doing no such thing. They are allowing themselves to assume the role of parent and in turn, are breaking the important trust between a child and his/her parent. This must be stopped.

Parental rights are for every parent, rich, poor, while, black, Hispanic, gay, etc. Parental rights are for parents of any religious beliefs whether Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, agnostic or atheist and must be respected.

We know that when government replaces the bonds children have with parents and families, this leads to the ultimate destruction of that society. Even more horrible, it mentally disables children and erodes their trust in others so that they cannot be happy, productive, and accomplished adults.

This bill would guarantee that ALL parents have the fundamental rights to direct the education, medical care and moral upbringing of their children.

I urge you to vote for ALL children and parents in Maryland and vote FOR this bill. To do otherwise is to deny children and parents the most important relationship of their lives.

Thank you for your consideration,

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