

# **Testimony Family Impact Statement.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jonathan Alexandre

Position: FAV

I am very honored to provide this statement on behalf of the Family Impact Statement proposed bill before your committee. My name is Dr. David Ayers and I was main author of a report recommending a bill of this intent and mission based on Maryland county-level data exploring the connections between marriage and key social outcomes.

This proposed bill does nothing to denigrate or disadvantage family types other than those headed by married couples and particularly two biological parent families. For example, single parents often do heroic work juggling demands of work and child-rearing with typically more limited financial resources, and I applaud them heartily. What this bill actually does is recognize the enormous advantages for individuals and communities in the former and latter, and seeks to discourage legislation that would harm such and which might, ideally, promote the same.

Financial Impact Statements attached to proposed legislation, such as I believe Maryland has, are common. This current proposed legislation partners with these wise attempts at fiscal responsibility. Why? Because the financial advantages of married couple households, directly and indirectly, are enormous. This means more tax revenue, less poverty, more consumer spending, healthier retirement accounts, lower expenses associated with vast swaths of what we call our “social safety” nets, lower expenses tied to crime and crime victimization, and a lot more.

To name just one indirect area of financial benefit, not to mention outcomes critically important to human welfare, consider lower crime. Among Maryland counties, juvenile and adult crime, including violent crime, property crime, weapons issues, etc. were much lower where the proportion of married couple households was higher.

There’s more. Less sadness and hopelessness, less suicide attempts or plans, among youth. Less early and promiscuous sexual intercourse among youth. Less hard drug use among youth. Higher educational proficiency, attendance, and four-year graduation rates among school students. All of these things are associated with positive financial benefits, not to mention quality-of-life!

So, to me this bill is not partisan, does not denigrate alternative family forms and those involved in them. It simply seeks to ensure that legislation does not inadvertently create challenges or harm to marriage, or to married couple households and (where present) their children. Right now, married couples pay dividends to support and repair deficits associated with single parent households particularly. This is a politically inconvenient fact but one which is undeniable. Is it too much to ask that we avoid legislation that might harm them, and ideally, do what we can to support them? I think not.

Thank you for considering this written testimony.

David J. Ayers, Ph.D. Sociology

# **SB558FamilyImpactStatements.pdf**

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV

JUSTIN READY  
Legislative District 5  
Carroll County

MINORITY WHIP  
Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 315  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3683 · 301-858-3683  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3683  
Justin.Ready@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 20, 2025

**SB 558 – General Assembly – Fiscal Notes – Family Impact Statement**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

Senate Bill 558 as proposed would require legislation prepared by the Department of Legislative Services to include a family impact statement; the purpose of which will indicate whether a bill will have an impact on marriage, family stability and/or family welfare.

In this bill, “Family” is defined as a group of family members by biological or legal bonds including spouses, foster families, stepfamilies and legal guardians/wards. Families take many shapes and sizes.

A stable home life with caring parents is one of the leading indicators of a young person's future success. The lack of caring parents or guardians put children into a difficult situation with health, emotional and economic disparities.

It’s undeniably true that these outcome disparities can be even worse for some groups due to structural barriers and inequalities. That is exactly why we should be noting and evaluating impacts when passing legislation.

When we consider legislation, each bill’s fiscal note takes small business, equity, and local government impacts all into account. Family impact should be included in whether the legislation creates good public policy.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 558.

# **SB 558 Paul Schwartz testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paul Schwartz

Position: FAV



Testimony of Paul Schwartz

February 20, 2025

Education, Energy and the Environment  
Committee

SB 558 – Fiscal Notes – Family Impact  
Statement

My name is Paul Schwartz and I am Region Vice President for National NARFE's (the National Active & Retired Federal Employee's Association)

I support SB 558 and HB 1487 as a critical first step in revising the manner in which fiscal notes are calculated by the Office of Legislative Services.

As currently crafted, fiscal notes simply cannot be relied on to reflect the true nature of the cost of any bill because the fiscal note does NOT reflect the complete cost associated with the bill.

Legislative Services does not have the capability to calculate cost savings and incorporate that calculation into the fiscal note – (you know who does do that? The insurance industry, so it can be done)

Legislative Services simply checks with the Comptroller's office and takes a hard count of lost tax revenue and regurgitates that figure in the fiscal note without factoring in any cost savings over the long term such as impact of reduced population to other states being addressed in a bill.

Factoring in an impact statement as is required by SB 558 and HB 1487 is an important requirement and first step in requiring the Office of Legislative Services to calculate more than just the immediate loss of revenue but as well the long-term impact on the economy.