



VISION - BRIDGE Maryland sees the state challenged by a history of inequity but engaged in community organizing for a more just tomorrow.

MISSION - BRIDGE Maryland uses intentional relationship building, organizing, and intensive leadership development in order to strengthen congregations and faith leaders to demonstrate and advance justice in the world.

Senate Bill SB531
Chairman, Will Smith
Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 7, 2005, 1:00 PM
BRIDGE Maryland, Inc

Dear Chairman Will Smith and members of the committee,

On behalf of BRIDGE Maryland, Inc., a statewide interfaith organization, we do not support SB531 for the following reasons here listed. Are we trying to subvert the Fifth Amendment rights of children now because that is how this bill is written. Some of the parents and guardians that would be included in this bill also fall in the category of brain development concerns we articulated to pass the Child Interrogation Protection Act (CIPA). Likewise, C.I.P.A. works in the best interest of the child and that's what laws should do, protect the vulnerable.

The Child Interrogation Protection Law is designed to explain to a child in legal terms, at their age level, what it means to speak to law enforcement and states attorneys. Are we saying that parents are lawyers now? I personally have three degrees that include a doctorate, and some legal terms still baffled me. This bill is simply an attempt to dismantle a child's Constitutional 5th Amendment right! Please do not let the false bravado that parents and guardians know the best for their children in one of the most important decisions they will make for their future. We urge you to vote unfavorable to SB531.

Sincerely

Rev. Dr. Marlon Tilghman
Bridge Maryland Executive Board Member at Large