

Blalock-Taussig-Thomas Pediatric and Congenital Heart Center

Bloomberg Children's Center
M 2303
1800 Orleans Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21287



JOHNS HOPKINS
CHILDREN'S CENTER

(410) 955-5987 – Academic office
(443) 997-KIDS – Appointments
(410) 955-0897 - Fax
On-Line appointments:
pedcardioappt@jhmi.edu

02/25/2025

Patient Education:
www.pted.org

Maryland General Assembly

William Ravekes, MD
Interim Chief, Division of Pediatric
Cardiology
Director, Pediatric Cardiac
Transplantation and MSC
Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Re: HB1440- FAVOR

John Thomson, MD
Director, Cardiology Clinical Operations
Director Cardiac
Catheterization Laboratory

Dear Sir or Madam,

Ari Cedars, MD
Director of ACHD

I am a Baltimore City resident of 17 years, homeowner, Baltimore City, Public school, parent, teacher, organization, volunteer, local church, volunteer, and pediatric cardiologist at Johns Hopkins Hospital writing in support of HB 1440 (**HB1440-FAV**).

Caridad M. de la Uz, M.D.
Director of Pediatric Electrophysiology

As recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, I breastfed both my sons, and as a proud citizen of Baltimore City, I've shown up for jury duty many times. I consider it my civic duty. I was therefore very disappointed when I was called for jury duty in 2014 and told there were no lactation rooms, and that if I tried to pump, it would have to be in a bathroom with nowhere to store milk safely. I would have to show my baby's birth certificate to be excused. I was excused, but called again when my second child was 18 months old, this time again being told that there were no facilities to pump except the bathroom and I could not be excused this time since child greater than 12 months

Ashish Doshi, MD
Director of Congenital Cardiac MRI

Melanie Nies, MD
Director
Pediatric Cardiology Echocardiography
Laboratory

During this experience as a nursing mom forced to present for jury duty, I learned firsthand the logistic difficulties of a nursing Mom on jury duty.

Cedric Manlihot, PhD
Director, CV Analytic Intelligence
Initiative (CV-AI²)

Although there are now lactation rooms, these logistic difficulties still exist.

Hannah Frait, MD
Director, Fellowship Program

Benjamin Barnes, MD

Shelby Kutty, MD, PhD, M.H.C.M.
Helen B. Taussig Professor

John Coulson, MD

Allen Everett, MD

Nursing/pumping breaks are difficult to accommodate even while waiting to see if your potential juror number is called, and much more so during voir dire or if chosen for jury duty. I had to take breaks to run to the bathroom to hand-express my breastmilk into the toilet. It is physically uncomfortable and distracting for the mom, not to mention the embarrassment of leaky, engorged breasts, the risk of mastitis/infection from not pumping, and your infant not receiving your breastmilk, endangering milk supply.

W. Reid Thompson, MD

Rukmalee Vithana, MD

Sruti Rao, MD

Carmel Bogle, MD

Glenn Wetzel, MD-PhD

Nursing/pumping moms are on a fairly strict schedule – 15-to-30 minute breaks every several hours are not feasible for a juror. Furthermore, 15-30 minute breaks for a single juror, if allowed, threaten the integrity of the trial.

Jun Yang, PhD

Consuela Thompson, MSN, CPNP

Kate Porter, CRNP

Kathy Byrne, RN, CRNP

HB 1440 stipulates excusing nursing mothers which is logistically and physiologically the only practical course to protect women and their infants in a very vulnerable time of life, as well as to protect the integrity of the judicial process in which jurors must be fully engaged and present.

Kaami Todd, DNP, RNC-NIC, APRN,
CPM-AC

Ligia Jordao, RN

Brenna Corcoran, RN

As a physician, Mom and proud citizen of Baltimore City, I desire to see justice upheld to the benefit of all involved and therefore I fully support HP 1440. Thank you for reviewing my written testimony in favor of HB 1440.

Re: HB1440- FAVOR, page 2/2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Nies MD'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the 'MD' part being more distinct and blocky than the name.

Dr. Melanie Nies, Pediatric Cardiologist

HB1440- FAVOR

Work address: Johns Hopkins Hospital Child Center 1800 Orleans St., Baltimore, MD 21287

Phone number 410 955-5987

Email: mnies1@jhmi.edu

Residential address can be provided upon request, but I prefer for it not to be public domain