

My name is Angélie Guilbaud, homeowner and resident in Baltimore City, Maryland (21218). I am here in complete support (FAV) of HB1440 and to share my experience. I want to start by saying what an honor it is to be able to serve on a jury. It is a privilege citizens of this country hold and it must be taken seriously. It is crucial that those serving on the jury do so with the utmost attention, commitment, and respect. As a nursing mother and primary caregiver of young children that is not possible.

I have chosen to stay home with my child for many reasons, not least of which is financial as childcare cost more than I made as a teacher in Baltimore City. When I got the jury summons I was 6 months I postpartum, exclusively breastfeeding, had never used a pump and had only spent one hour away from my infant daughter. I called to postpone my duty but the best they said they could do was two months. I explained that my child would still be breastfeeding at 8 months- CDC recommends at least two years for the health of mother and child. I could not afford childcare, nor would I be comfortable leaving my child with a stranger. My parents do not live in Maryland and my husband and in-laws work in education and in the medical profession and can not easily take off work for my jury duty. The lady on the phone said it wasn't their problem and I needed to find child care - end of story and a lactation room was available so the fact that I breastfeed wasn't an issue as far as the city was concerned. She also shared that since she lives in the county she was able to postpone her jury duty due to breastfeeding but could not do the same for me since I live in the city.

I was furious and anxious. I'd never pumped, I had never left my baby for more than an hour, and my daughter was not used to using a bottle. My husband, a Baltimore City public school teacher, had to use one of his sick days in order for me to go to jury duty. I

practiced pumping for two days in order to understand how to use the contraption and have milk for when I was gone while also breastfeeding my child which resulted in painful over production. On the day of my jury duty I was leaking and in so much pain when waiting in line to ask to use the lactation room, that I had to embarrassingly ask everyone if I could cut the line so I could be escorted to the room. If I do not nurse right away I learned that I quickly develop blocked ducts that can lead to mastitis, a painful infection of the breast tissue.

Walking into the lactation room it stated no eating or drinking- two things necessary when nursing, or in this case pumping. I felt dehumanized. Sitting in a chair, with a machine painfully sucking milk from my breasts as I read a poster haphazardly leaning against the wall that stated the benefits of breastfeeding according to the CDC. Yes, I thought, I'd much rather be feeding my child than this machine.

When it came time to clean my pump there was no sink and I had to use the water fountain.

While waiting to hear my number, I realized that were I to be called to serve on a jury I would not be able to have my water-something medically necessary when nursing. I would also be a distraction, needing to stop and nurse right away or else develop painful clogged ducts, a request that would not only disrupt the court but also may not be granted resulting in painful mastitis. I would not have been able to focus on the case in front of me were I called which is a great disservice to all those involved.

Upon returning home I learned that my child had refused to take a bottle as she had never been without me. That was 8 hours without milk. She spent the last two hours crying nonstop until she slept.

I still cannot believe the first time I spent time away from my daughter was not my own choice, was not when we were ready, but was dictated to me by the City government as though I was the one being punished for a crime. My husband chose to work for this city as a public school teacher and when we were able to buy a house we chose to buy in the city because we love this city and we want to see it prosper. Baltimore needs its families and it needs its families to thrive in the city in order for the city to grow and become all it can be.

When I found out I had no choice but to leave my baby against my will it felt like this city and this state didn't care about families and did not care about keeping families in the city. In that moment I regretted our decision to stay in Baltimore City, wishing to go back to the state I grew up in - which broke my heart. My old home state allows nursing mothers to postpone jury duty until they have finished nursing and allows those who take care of a dependent to defer if they can not afford care. Why stay in a city that forces nursing mothers away from their children for any amount of time? These protections and exemptions already exist in certain counties in Maryland. It's time to protect all of Maryland's citizens.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

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