



KeepOurKidsHome.com

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STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD IN SUPPORT OF HB 1165
Submitted by Arif S. Ahmad, Director of Keep Our Kids Home (KOKH)
To the Maryland House Judiciary Committee

INTRODUCTION

My name is **Arif S. Ahmad**, director of **Keep Our Kids Home (KOKH)**, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting children's rights, parental rights, and reforming Maryland's broken family court system. Since 2020, KOKH has fought tirelessly for laws like **HB 267**, the *Maryland Child Abduction Prevention Act*. Today, I urge you to pass **HB 1165**—a bill that addresses the systemic failures I have endured firsthand, where courts enable non-compliance with custody orders and children pay the price.

WHY HB 1165 IS NEEDED

Maryland's family courts routinely reward parents who weaponize visitation, ignore court orders, and harm children. **HB 1165 fixes this crisis by:**

- **Emergency Hearings:** Requiring courts to act within *10 days* of a petition.
- **Accountability:** Mandating compensatory visitation and sanctions for violations.
- **Child-Centric Justice:** Prioritizing the child's well-being over procedural delays.

Without these tools, parents like me face years of legal sabotage, marginalization, and irreversible harm to their children.

MY STORY: SYSTEMIC FAILURES IN ACTION

In 2020, **my child was unlawfully abducted to another state** after the other party **lied under oath** during an emergency hearing, falsely claiming residency in Maryland. The court later admitted this **perjury** but took *no action* to hold them accountable. For three agonizing years, I battled relentless violations: **denied visitation for months**, **repeated court delays** enabling further abuses, and a **blatant out-of-state relocation** that violated our binding Marital Settlement Agreement. Shockingly, the court acknowledged these breaches yet **awarded custody to the violating parent**. To compound this injustice, the other party's attorney — **later disbarred for fabricating evidence** — orchestrated a campaign to conceal my child's address, school, and healthcare details, erasing my role as a father.



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The court's inaction nearly cost my child her life. In 2024, my daughter attempted suicide, driven by the trauma of separation and the loss of her family. School records documented her plea to **"die"** because she missed her father and grandmother. Despite this, the court ignored its own findings of misconduct and continued to **deny me meaningful access to my child**. My story is not just about legal failures—it is about a system that values procedure over a child's survival.

HOW HB 1165 WOULD HAVE PREVENTED THIS TRAGEDY

1. **Emergency Intervention:** A 10-day hearing would have halted the abduction and exposed the lies.
 2. **Compensatory Visitation:** Missed time with my child would have been restored, preserving our bond.
 3. **Sanctions:** Penalties like fines or parenting courses would deter future violations.
 4. **Child's Voice:** Courts would prioritize my daughter's well-being over delays and technicalities.
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CONCLUSION AND CALL TO ACTION

HB 1165 is not just legislation—it is a lifeline. My story is not unique. It reflects a pattern of judicial apathy that enables parental alienation and destroys children's lives.

To the House Judiciary Committee:

- **Restore accountability** by penalizing violations of court orders.
- **Protect children** from the trauma of separation and manipulation.
- **Uphold Maryland's promise** of justice for families.

Do not let another child suffer. Vote YES on HB 1165.

Respectfully submitted,

Arif S. Ahmad

Director, Keep Our Kids Home (KOKH)
Advocate for Parental and Children's Rights