

Good afternoon Chair and Members of the Committee.

My name is Robert Garza. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB0942.

This bill is about one simple principle: court orders matter.

When a judge signs a custody order, it is not a suggestion. It is a directive intended to protect children and provide stability in their lives. Yet repeated and willful interference with custody orders too often continues with little meaningful consequence.

One violation may be frustration.  
Two may reflect conflict.  
But when interference becomes a pattern, it becomes harm.

Children need predictability. They need consistency. They need to know that the adults in their lives, and the courts that govern those lives, mean what they say.

HB0942 creates structured accountability when violations are knowing, intentional, and repeated. This bill does not criminalize mistakes. It addresses patterns of conduct that deprive children of time with a loving parent and undermine respect for the rule of law.

If custody orders are not enforced, they lose legitimacy. And when they lose legitimacy, children lose stability.

Escalating consequences for repeat violations are not extreme. They are measured. They are proportional. And they send a clear message that Maryland will not tolerate repeated defiance of lawful court orders.

Accountability protects children.  
Consistency protects children.  
Clarity protects children.

For those reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB0942.

Thank you.

Robert Garza