

**HB0481**

**Position: FAV**

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## **Written Testimony in Support of Time Taken, Time Back**

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee. Thank you for your service and for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Brian Fitzgerald. I am a father, and like everyone here, I am also someone's child.

There is one truth that crosses every party and every belief: **every child understands love as time.**

Not legal language. Not explanations. Just time.

When a court issues a visitation order, adults see a schedule. But to a child, it feels like a promise:

"You matter, and your time with both parents is protected."

The problem this bill solves is simple. When that court-ordered time is taken from a child, and nothing restores it, the system teaches that child that promises made to them can disappear.

While adults wait for hearings and motions, children don't understand procedure. They ask themselves:

"Did I do something wrong?"

"Am I the reason they're gone?"

Time Taken, Time Back is built on a simple principle: when time is taken from a child, that time belongs to the child, and it should be restored.

This bill does not punish parents. It does not pick sides. It simply makes court orders

meaningful and protects children from the emotional cost of adult noncompliance.

I respectfully urge you to support Time Taken, Time Back — for every child in Maryland whose time deserves protection.

Thank you.