

THE COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S CHILDREN

Our Mission: To combine and amplify the power of organizations and citizens working together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We strive to secure budgetary and public policy resources to make meaningful and measurable improvements in safety, permanence, and wellbeing.



HB0025 - Family Law - Grandparent Visitation
House Judiciary Committee
January 29, 2026

Position: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children is a consortium of organizations and individuals formed in 1992 who are concerned about the care of Maryland's most vulnerable children and work together to educate and promote meaningful child welfare reform. **CPMC is not taking a position on HB0025**, but our members offer the following information to take into consideration regarding the bill as currently presented.¹

Having observed the reintroduction of this bill for the last several legislative sessions and the testimony for and against it, we agree that grandparents may play a positive role in the lives of their grandchildren in helping them be safe, healthy, and thriving, especially when a parent has engaged in maltreatment of their children or are missing, incarcerated, or deceased. However, this issue is very complicated and warrants a formal legislative workgroup to explore all options, as has been suggested repeatedly by the Maryland State Bar's Family & Juvenile Law Section Council in their testimony year after year.

We also feel it is important to state that although the bill language includes the court's consideration regarding the best interests of the child who is the subject of such a proceeding, there is no measure that requires the perspective of the child to be actually shared before the court makes its final determination of whether to grant the visitation order nor the right of the child to decline participation.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

¹ Members of CPMC represented by this written testimony include the American Academy of Pediatrics - MD Chapter, Center for Hope, Citizens Review Board for Children, Court Appointed Special Advocates (MD CASA), Court Appointed Special Advocates (Baltimore County), Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY), Maryland Children's Alliance, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, National Association of Social Workers - MD, State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, and individual members of the coalition.