

Dear Delegate Cox,

I am writing to express gratitude for your sponsorship of bill HB1242, Fundamental Parental Rights. As a new parent, I enthusiastically support this bill.

I've been a parent for just under two years now and it's been very eye opening to read and hear about some troubling trends as it relates to parental rights, both in our state and nationwide. It's clear that many states are trying to erode parental rights. In Maryland, expanding minors' rights without parental consent is a growing trend so I am happy to support legislation that recognizes and establishes the importance of parents in a child's life.

Children are best served when loving and responsive parents are involved in making the best choices for their children. Just this past year, here in Baltimore, a teenager received a birth control implant at school. Initially, her mother was not informed, but her daughter began exhibiting symptoms and told her mother in time for her to take her to their family pediatrician, who removed the implant before any serious health consequences occurred. It was her mother, not the negligent provider at school, who acted quickly and in the best interest of her child to ensure she got the medical treatment she needed.

<https://www.abc15.com/news/national/teen-given-birth-control-implant-at-school-without-parents-permission?fbclid=IwAR3JCIBya8rOJn4P9EOCUVOrUe2kDaZ62nCKsXqDsxdeDqCCRtbEaynHymA>

A recent story broke about a pediatric ER doctor who was falsely accused of abusing his child after taking her to the ER for an accident at home (the hospital at which he worked). The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) now has a subspecialty of "child abuse pediatricians" who, investigations have found, seem a bit overzealous in suggesting abuse. Doctors at this hospital *"described an "out of control" child abuse team that is too quick to report minor injuries to authorities and that is too closely aligned with state child welfare investigators."*

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/er-doctor-was-charged-abusing-his-baby-15-medical-experts-n1123756>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/doctors-wisconsin-hospital-call-changes-amid-backlash-over-child-abuse-n1131151>

A more in-depth investigation by NBC News and the Houston Chronicle has uncovered countless stories such as these where parents are wrongly accused, and children are removed from the home. I would not want to see these kinds of situations occurring in our state. If this is happening to a pediatric ER physician and a pediatric oncologist, imagine how difficult it would be for the average person or a person in an underserved community to fight such allegations?

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/do-no-harm>

Thank you again for introducing this bill and standing up in favor of parental rights!

With much gratitude,

Jenn Ausiello-Rosenthal

District 39

Jenn <bblu007@yahoo.com>