

Dear Delegate:

To see bills like HB 1242, Family Law - Fundamental Parental Rights, (sponsored by Delegate [Cox](#))

being introduced is truly a great joy for parents and families all over Maryland! **Please support HB 1242!** This bill recognizes that the well-being of the family is so important and fundamental to our community and society and at the core of family well-being are the parent's rights to protect their children/family from manipulation from outside interests and parties.

History has shown us that there are outside interests have incentives to prey on minors to obtain the financial benefits. In fact, we have many examples of how predatory interests can target our young minor kids for their own profit but use sophisticated methods and arguments to hide their true intent. However, our American society recognized that minors are particularly vulnerable to these manipulation so thereby have established certain protections like smoking age limit, drinking age limit, driving age minimum, and parental consent for medical procedures for their kids. Though these actions we recognized that manipulation and predatory nature to target the most vulnerable people in our society, our kids, and we stood up and pass legislations to prevent protect our kids. Some other forms of manipulation and predatory behaviors include: Child labor, kiddie branding and marketing and now these predatory activities have transformed into new and more damaging attacks on parental rights to protect their children, including raising the minor ages to consent. These current master-fully orchestrated attempts are aimed at obliterating parental right and in essence the American family—the fundamental means by which parents can protect their family and kids from outside predatory interests—and thus reversing old protections, set up to protect minors.

Who wins in the end when parental rights are gone and when they success in lower minor consent laws, when everyone but the parent (from government agencies, to doctors, to pharmacist, to dentists...) have the power to manipulate and control our minors? It is not the minors (that are marketed and proclaimed by these outside interests as winning) but the major corporations and companies that profit from a new defenses group of victims. In fact, when we consider the money incentive that doctors, dentists, pharmacist, insurance companies, etc and others get from drug/ pharmaceutical corporations and others we then uncover the true winners. Sadly, there are monetary incents for doctors, dentists, health insurance and other professional to push drugs and other medical procedures are not frequently discussed when bills that restrict parental rights are introduced. For instance, "[a] ProPublica analysis has found that doctors who receive payments from the medical industry do indeed prescribe drugs differently on average than their colleagues who don't. And the more money they receive, the more brand-name medications they tend to prescribe... Doctors who got money from drug and device makers prescribed a higher percentage of brand-name drugs overall than doctors who didn't, our analysis showed... 'It again confirms the prevailing wisdom ... that there is a relationship between payments and brand-name prescribing,' said Dr. Aaron Kesselheim, an associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School who provided guidance on early versions of ProPublica's analysis. "This feeds into the ongoing conversation about the propriety of these sorts of relationships. Hopefully we're getting past the point where people will say, 'Oh, there's no evidence that these relationships change physicians' prescribing practices.' ""

(<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/03/17/470679452/drug-company-payments->

[mirror-doctors-brand-name-prescribing](#)) Moreover, “As tens of thousands of Americans die from prescription opioid overdoses each year, an exclusive analysis by CNN and researchers at Harvard University found that opioid manufacturers are paying physicians huge sums of money - - and the more opioids a doctor prescribes, the more money he or she makes.” (<https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/11/health/prescription-opioid-payments-eprise/index.html>.) In fact, many of these entities win financially from having a more dependent, unprotected minor populations, it seems everyone wins but the minors, the parents, and the family.

The weakening of parent’s fundamental right to protect their family and children is a dangerous slippery and opens the door to abuse by outside interests. Giving absolute power to government agencies, organizations, professionals and outside entities without the protection of parental right’s leaves families and children defenseless again abuse and with harm to the children. For instance in 1/12/18, Newsweek article details how “most Americans who are victims of sex trafficking come from our nation's own foster care system.” (<https://www.newsweek.com/we-have-set-system-sex-traffic-american-children-779541>) Sadly, even doctors are not above abuse. See “Oral surgeon investigated for sex tourism had dozens of hidden-camera devices, 1000s of child-porn images, police say” (<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/02/26/walnut-creek-arrest-reveals-secret-world-of-child-sex-trafficking-girls-as-young-as-9-allegedly-being-bought-and-sold-in-the-bay-area/>). In this situation, an Oakland man named Cassidy Lavorini-Doyle, 36, an oral surgeon who currently sits in a Contra Costa County jail awaiting trial on charges of human trafficking, child porn possession, and attempted kidnapping. After his arrest, the state Attorney General’s office moved to revoke Lavorini-Doyle’s dental license, saying the allegations gave state prosecutors “grave concerns” about him interacting with children. Children need to be raised and represented by parents who love them, not by disconnected government officials. When it comes to raising children, parents are better than the government or any outside interests who might have financial or other gains by the weakening of parent’s rights to protect their family and children.

In the 1980s, my parents are immigrants who left their war-worn communist country to search the freedoms and liberties for their children in America. They risked everything including their lives. It is their devotion to their children and their children’s future that parents risked everything. This is an example of the love and commitment to protect their children that parents all over Maryland and all across American have. It is this commitment and love that are being attacked now. But it is this parental love that is recognized in bills like **HB 1242**.

As John Adams said, “You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve YOUR freedom. I hope you will make a good use of it.” It’s hard sometimes hard to appreciate our liberties and freedom when we have it but if we don’t fight to keep it, they will not be around. Once gone, they are hard to get back if ever. Please fight for our fundamental parental right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of the parent's child. Our future, our children’s future and the future of many generations to come are in your hands. Please support HB 1242 and bills like it.

We are a great nation because we value the integrity of parent’s role to protect their kids and family from the predatory nature and greed from outside interest (that pretend to be promoting the best interest of our kids) but in secret have other self-benefiting agendas. We are a strong

nation because we recognized the love of parents for their children and how like mama and papa bears we will fight to our last-breath for our kids and their health and well-being. There is a saying that summarizes parental love and commitment to their children:

“You may believe or not, but it is true, in this world no one can give you truly love more than your parents.”

As concerned parents and citizens in Maryland, we deeply care about children and are troubled by how parental rights are slipping away. The strength of nation depends on the strength of our families. There is nothing more fundamental to keeping our families and children strong, then the right of parents to protect their families and their children. Please support HB 1242 and bills like it to strength our wonderful families all across Maryland and to send message across the country that our kids are not for sale and that we stand by our families and parental rights. Thank you for standing up for Maryland families and the protection of all our kids and future generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

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