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**Testimony: House Bill 1213, Commission of Fatherhood (Fatherhood Protection Act)**  
**Hearing: Health and Government Operations**  
**Position: Support**

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Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of HB1213.

Since around President Johnson's Great Society, the welfare state has done more harm than good, especially when it comes to intact families, and in one important aspect, fathers in the home have been hurt more that society cares to admit.

The Welfare state has created a mindset that government will take care of our mothers and children.

In recent years, we have seen sharp increases in crime, with smash-and-grabs and in carjackings spiking all across the nation, with juveniles largely responsible for those crimes.

Since the pandemic, increases in mental health issues, suicides, crimes, and fear have haunted children who haven't been able to return to school for two years.

When it comes to child custody, most states say there is a 50/50 presumption going into a custody case, as dictated by law since 1970's.

However, the results show that since 2018, 79.9% of custodial parents in the United States were mothers, and only 40% of the states aim to give children equal time with each parent.

Our children suffer from fatherlessness.

This is why we need a Fatherhood Commission. I believe this commission will shed light on the issues and attitudes that affect fathers and fatherhood in education, social services, employment, law enforcement, health and safety, legal rights, family and human relations, and volunteer services (all listed in the bill).

The results of these efforts can be communicated to executive and legislative branches of state government to propose legislation to properly address wrongful governmental overreach into family matters, and hopefully overcome wrongful bias & attitudes held by government workers which denigrate fathers.

As a divorced father, I have firsthand experience in the damage done to the relationship between a father and his children. Without a detailed history, at one point the children told me they did not have to visit with Dad if they didn't want to. Unfortunately, they were permitted to embrace the parental

alienation encouraged by their mother and there was no remedy offered to assist me by my case's family law court judges to address it. The relationship with my children has been diminished as a result.

I know that such cases are shared with you every year in House Judiciary. The House of Delegates is aware of this corruption and now you are too. Vote in favor of this Commission so we can solve this societal harm.

Thank you for your time, I am more than willing to answer any questions you may have.