



**Winning Strategies: Fatherhood, The Courts & Custody, Incorporated**

**Tax ID No. 85-0940809**

Post Office Box 1335

Baltimore, Maryland 21203

Contact Number – 443- 768-8158

Email: [winningstrategies.fcc@gmail.com](mailto:winningstrategies.fcc@gmail.com)

[Http://www.winningstrategiesfcc.org](http://www.winningstrategiesfcc.org)

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Greetings Senators & Delegates:

I am Eric Smith, Executive Director for Winning Strategies: Fatherhood, The Courts & Custody. We would like to get your support with an amendment SB 0106/HB0345. The amendment would be that 25-35% of the allocated funds be used for nonprofits that have a focus on educating and advocating fathers on co-parenting rights and the rules regarding court procedures when filing for custody. This provision is needed to help fathers who has a desire to co-parent. However, they have questions or uneducated about the process of filing and what they can request when asking for custody.

Fathers have been treated unfairly when they must appear before a judge or judicial appointee. Maryland currently ranks a D- in following the rules in deciding the Best Interest of the Child. Delegate Clippinger - House Chair, Delegate Anderson & Delegate Conway of the Judiciary Committee can attest to the bills that have been presented this session. Bills that limit a dad/father's access to his child/children and are against the father having any equal custody. The amendment to this bill would start to give fathers relief when it comes to custody and co-parenting because they would be educated when speaking before a judge or judicial appointee.

Sincerely,

Eric Smith & The Winning Strategies Team

Executive Director/ 443-768-8158

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