



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (john.carson@house.ga.gov)

February 10, 2022

The Honorable John Carson
Georgia House of Representatives
401-E State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Support for H.B. 1158, The Parents' Bill of Rights

Dear Representative Carson,

On behalf of our thousands of supporters in Georgia, we write to you today in strong support of the bill that you and your colleagues introduced, H.B. 1158, The Parents' Bill of Rights.

This critical bill will enshrine into Georgia state law that parental rights are fundamental, as the U.S. Supreme Court has long recognized in the leading cases protecting parental rights as a fundamental right. *See, e.g., Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390 (1923), *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925), *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972), and *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000).

Georgia's Supreme Court has agreed, stating in multiple cases that "[t]here can scarcely be imagined a more fundamental and fiercely guarded right than the right of a natural parent to its offspring." *Patten v. Ardis*, 816 S.E.2d 633, 636 (Ga. 2018). *See also, e.g., Nix v. Dept. of Human Resources*, 225 S.E.2d 306, 307 (Ga. 1976); *Clark v. Wade*, 544 S.E.2d 99, 104 (Ga. 2001); *In the Interest of M. F.*, 780 S.E.2d 291, 297 (Ga. 2015). H.B. 1158 will enshrine this judicial protection of parental rights into Georgia's state code, further protecting parental rights.

Additionally, H.B. 1158 will provide parents of children in public schools in Georgia with concrete rights concerning the education, privacy, and safety of their children. H.B. 1158 will put into Georgia law some of the strongest protections for parents and children in the nation. We are especially grateful for H.B. 1158's protection of the right of parents to direct the "health care of their minor children."

ParentalRights.org is proud to support this critical and timely piece of legislation. At a time when it seems that government is encroaching more and more on loving parents and their ability to care for, educate, and raise their children, H.B. 1158 provides strong legal protections to Georgia parents so that parents – not bureaucrats – are the ones legally protected to make the important decisions necessary to protect, raise, care for, and educate their children, so that their children can grow and thrive.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached via phone at 540-751-1200, or via email at will@parentalrights.org.

Very truly yours,



William A. Estrada, Esq.*
President
ParentalRights.org

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