



February 1, 2022

The Honorable Doug Mastriano
Senate Box 203033
Room 187 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3033

RE: Support for S. B. 996, The Parental Rights Protection Act

Dear Senator Mastriano,

On behalf of our thousands of supporters in Pennsylvania, we write to you today in strong support of the bill that you and your colleagues introduced, S.B. 996, the Parental Rights Protection Act.

This critical bill will enshrine into the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's 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).

Pennsylvania's Supreme Court has also recognized that parental rights are a fundamental right, stating just last year in *In re Adoption of C.M.*, 255 A.3d 343, 358 (Pa. 2021) that "[a] parent's right to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of his or her children is among the oldest of fundamental rights." *See also, e.g., In re D.C.D.*, 105 A.3d 662 (Pa. 2014); *Hiller v. Fausey*, 904 A.2d 875 (Pa. 2004).

S.B. 996 will enshrine this judicial protection of parental rights into the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's statutes, further protecting parental rights. Passage of S.B. 996 will allow the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join twelve other states across the nation that have state-level statutes protecting parental rights as a fundamental right.

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 the freedom of loving parents to care for, educate, and raise their children, S.B. 996 provides strong legal protections to Pennsylvania parents so that parents are the ones legally protected

to make the important decisions necessary to protect, raise, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Estrada', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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

**Licensed in the District of Columbia*

CC: Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill
Senator Judy Ward
Senator Michele Brooks