



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (rep-morgan@rilegislature.gov)

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Patricia Morgan
Rhode Island House of Representatives
411 Wakefield Street
West Warwick, RI 02893

RE: Support for H. 7138, The Parents' Bill of Rights

Dear Representative Morgan,

On behalf of our thousands of supporters in Rhode Island, we write to you today in strong support of your bill, H. 7138, The Parents' Bill of Rights.

This critical bill will enshrine into Rhode Island 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). Rhode Island's Supreme Court has agreed, holding that "natural parents have a fundamental liberty interest in the care, custody, and management of their child." *See, e.g., In re Manuel P.*, 252 A.3d 1211, 1218 (R.I. 2021); *In re Indiana M.*, 230 A.3d 577, 583 (R.I. 2020); *In re Antonio G.*, 657 A.2d 1052, 1057 (R.I. 1995). H. 7138 will enshrine this judicial protection of parental rights into Rhode Island's state code, further protecting parental rights.

Additionally, H. 7138 will provide parents of children in public schools in Rhode Island with concrete rights concerning the education, privacy, and safety of their children. H. 7138 will put into Rhode Island law some of the strongest protections for parents and children in the nation. Passage of H. 7138 will allow Rhode Island to join the twelve states across the country that already protect parental rights as a fundamental right in their state statutes.

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. 7138 provides strong

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legal protections to Rhode Island parents so that parents – not bureaucrats – 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 'Will', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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

**Licensed in the District of Columbia*