



January 31, 2022

The Honorable Sue Peterson
South Dakota House of Representatives
6405 S. Killarney Cir.
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

RE: Support for H.B. 1246, An Act to establish the fundamental right of a parent.

Dear Representative Peterson,

On behalf of our thousands of supporters in South Dakota, we write to you today in strong support of the bill that you introduced, H.B. 1246, An Act to establish the fundamental right of a parent.

This critical bill will enshrine into South Dakota 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). South Dakota's Supreme Court has also recognized the "fundamental nature of parental rights..." *See, e.g., In re I.H.*, 674 N.W.2d 809, 815 (S.D. 2004); *People ex rel. T.G.*, 578 N.W.2d 921, 924 (S.D. 1998); *In re S.T.B.*, 499 N.W.2d 903, 905 (S.D. 1993).

H.B. 1246 will enshrine this judicial protection of parental rights into South Dakota's state code, further protecting parental rights.

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. 1246 provides strong legal protections to South Dakota 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*