

House Human Service Committee
March 22nd, 2023 SB 2260
Testimony in Opposition

Dear Chair Weisz and the members of the House Human Service Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on SB 2260, because:

1. Parents already enjoy [fundamental parental rights](#)
2. It is a grocery list of rights attempting to infantilize our public institutes to the authority of parents, far exceeding the 14th amendment and destabilizing their ability to operate.
3. These additional parental rights could conflict with youth’s [unalienable right](#) to enjoy life and liberty or pursue and obtain safety and happiness.
4. [State data](#) already reflects bad parents do exist in our state.
5. It’s part of a series of bills attempting to legislate culture into law.

Conservative values are important. I know many representatives on this committee and in our government share them. If we want to raise our kids to believe in these values, we don’t do it by legislation, we do it by showing kids how amazing life is when practicing those values. Often in a kind and caring home that allows questions and exploration and doesn’t need to benefit from supreme parental authority that this bill hopes to instill.

Can we not imagine a world where your child is trans and grows up to follow the traditional values you love? Who gets married, believes in small government, works an honest living, and raises a family? It’s possible. That’s how we as a state build a future together, we believe in our differences and give people the choice on what makes sense for them.

There will never be a law that could fully balance the rights of parents, youth, and government interest. However, shifting that careful balance to further empower parents leads to increased possibility for trauma and abuse as seen with other testimony this session:

Samantha Field’s from the Coalition for Responsible Home Education spoke this session about not being given a basic education or progressing past the eighth grade reading level because of her parents and the fundamental rights of youth were virtually meaningless. Child Protective Services spoke about the careful balance of their jobs and how bills like this put youth into jeopardy. Our schools have talked about the authority this gives parents as making school virtually impossible, with each teacher now needing to respond to sixty new bosses in each classroom.

I’m not against good parents or the nature of fundamental parental rights in the 14th amendment strictly as it is written, but my primary stakeholder and how I weigh decisions is keeping kids safe. This bill doesn’t do that. Please vote “Do Not Pass.”

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state.
Faye Seidler