

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I Write today to ask that you please vote in favor of this Bill, which protects the integrity of a parent/child relationship. As a parent of 4, 2 fully grown, 1 teen and a 10-year-old, I have watched the deterioration of societies respect for the parent/child role. We have special interests moving rapidly, to divide children and parents, and manipulate the children's mind into believing the parent is their advisor. This is a form of psychological abuse and warfare on our children. I have been fortunate enough to be hyper aware of what is happening in society. So, I have been able to teach my children what manipulation looks like, so my children are usually the ones to put doctors or others in place when they try to push me out of the equation. However, having 4 children has given me a window into the challenges other parents face. Being a parent is hard enough. When we have bad actors with a political or ideology, or any agenda intervening in our family roles, and manipulating the minds of our children for some form of personal gain, whether financial, political, or malicious, you can only imagine how much harder it makes our jobs. Our children are not community property. Nor are they mature or responsible enough to make big decisions for themselves, hints why we don't allow smoking and drinking prior to 21. We don't even allow them to vote before 18. Yet, we allow outsiders with zero best interests for our children to push the child's biggest weapon aside, and out of the equation? Most see our children as dollar signs because they are easy to sway. Money, tends to bring the worst out in many. Do we really want our children's fate left in the hands of those who wouldn't be living with the consequences they created? Children are confused enough with the life lessons thrown at them. Children are easy to influence, and their thought processes are immature. Their brains are still developing, and they are just learning where they fit in society. Parental rights are not a punishment, they are the foundation to a healthy child.

This Bill would give parents the ability to fight off predators who see our children as a form of personal gain. It would allow parents the ability to protect their child's minds and would help us hold bad situations accountable. It would stop our children from being preyed on and hold ill-intentioned people accountable. Please vote in favor of this Bill, and help parents remove the target on their children.

Thank you for your time.

Melissa Sitton

Belfield

509-217-8121