

SB 566

Dr. Frank Arlinghaus

Favorable

Please issue a favorable opinion on Senate Bill 566.

I write to you as the father of three daughters and two sons. I ask for your support in protecting parental rights to be involved with and yes, to interfere in their children's lives as so many parents have done for their children in the past. I do this in the name of the compelling interest our state government has in protecting minors and maintaining parental rights. This bill recognizes that parents have both responsibilities and rights to be involved in parent-child decisions.

Parents need to be involved in the medical decisions of their children. The general concept of medical informed consent presumes that a minor lacks the competence to make the decision in almost all cases. Parents and teens need to communicate regarding these critical decisions and the state has a compelling interest to ensure parents and teens do communicate. The state currently recognizes this with most medical decisions, and even the few it doesn't, the parents still have responsibility for the consequences of those decisions.

This parent-child relationship and the rights of parents paired with these responsibilities are a fundamental part of our tradition, embedded in the fabric of our society. This is true not only of medical decisions, but of education, care, and welfare. Fundamentally, the family unit is where these decisions and responsibilities belong, and in a free society that respects liberty and family, the state should intrude rarely and in the least restrictive way..

SB566 protects parental rights and responsibilities by recognizing them and recognizing that intrusion into that familial relationship should be rare and limited in scope. Please issue a favorable report on SB566.