

Please SUPPORT HB553

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 5:10 PM

Dear Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

It is common sense that it is a parent's right to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their child. Moreover, it is a parent's duty to raise their child as they see fit. Decent people should be able to agree that under the umbrella of acceptable parenting people have different religious and philosophical worldviews and are entitled to impart such views on their children. Neglectful and/or abusive parents are a different matter entirely, of course.

Legislators and their constituents must resist the urge to give into authoritarian impulses and pridefully mandate that their worldviews reign when it comes to educating other people's children. It is because of the aforementioned varying worldviews that public schools are supposed to teach just academic disciplines and not teach morality beyond the basic moral lessons needed to manage the classroom such as being kind, not lying, and not cheating.

All parents should want to codify parental rights into state law. Medical decisions, and discussion of sexual topics with moral implications such as gender identity, sexual orientation, and sexual acts (apart from teaching reproductive biology), should be initiated by a child's parent(s).

Please do what is right and support parental rights bill HB553.