
Fundamental Rights of Parents Incrementally Weakened

In 1968 parental authority over their children’s healthcare was destroyed in Georgia when the Family Planning Act¹ was changed as follows: “**Persons to whom agencies may offer services.** Any one or more of the following classifications: married, a parent of at least one child, pregnant, or requesting such services.” Result: (a) *marital status* became irrelevant and (b) minors could receive *confidential family planning services, contraception and abortion.*

By 1985, 17 years later, page 69 of a 397-page U.S. report² listed Georgia as one of six states where adolescents are served without parental consent. The report’s Table 7 – “State-by-State Comments Concerning Selected Federal, State and Local Programs” – reported Georgia Public Health Department policy toward minors: “Teens seeking services are considered emancipated minors, and are offered a full range of services without parental notification or consent, which is perceived as a major barrier to services. Parental involvement is encouraged.”

In the spring of 1986, extensive telephone research³ was done to ascertain whether or not state and local departments, agencies, school systems, and/or staff could be held liable for the adverse effects of contraceptives given to minors. The following exemplify answers from that research.

Local Board of Education Q & A

Q. Are teachers liable in any way for what they teach or the outcome of that teaching?

A. No, as long as they teach within school system policies and are not teaching outside course information. Call the attorney for the local Board of Education.

Q. If you gave a minor an IUD, would you get the child to sign a waiver?

A. Oh, yeah, they could sign a waiver.

Attorney for a Local Board of Education Q & A

Q. Are schools accountable for the information taught students?

A. No. The school is not accountable for abortion information or contraceptive information. But, the person in the medical facility who counseled the student would be responsible.

The person giving the information is not liable. But, in my opinion, the person giving the contraceptives is liable. However, the caller was reminded that government entities enjoy government immunity. Suggestion was made to call the medical services.

County Solicitor’s Office Q & A

Q. Is the county liable for any adverse reaction to abortions or contraceptives recommended or administered to minors in its teen services?

A. H-m-m-m, this question has never been asked before. We are employed by the state and don’t give out any information. But, given our state laws, the parents would be responsible for their children.

The passage of H.B. 1058 in 2016 further weakened parental authority over a minor child that tested positive for AIDS. Previous law mandated that a parent or guardian “*shall*” be notified. In 2016 “*shall*” was replaced with “*may*,” which *allows, but does not require, notification.*

¹ Georgia Law 1968, p. 558, section 1.

² The Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, U.S. House of Representatives 99th Congress

³ Research by Gwen Metzger, Eagle Forum of Georgia

Education

S.B. 449 Parents' Bill of Rights, introduced February 2nd by Senator Clint Dixon, defines parent as “a person who has legal authority to act on behalf of a minor child as a natural or adoptive parent or a legal guardian.” If passed, this Code section could not be waived for a school system, a charter system or a charter school. It passed the Senate 32-21 February 22nd.

S.B. 449 affirms parents' right to ...

- Direct the upbringing and moral or religious training of his or her minor child;
- Review all instructional materials intended for use in the classroom of the minor;
- Apply to enroll the minor child in a public school or private school, a religious school, a home study program or other lawful options subject to enrollment policy;
- Access and review all records of the minor, including but not limited to current grade reports and attendance records unless otherwise prohibited by law;
- Access promotion data, retention policies, and high school requirements;
- Prohibit photos, video, or voice recordings of a minor, subject to safety/security exemptions;
- Request in writing from the local school superintendent or principal information provided in this Code section, which must be received within three business days, no later than 30 days.

ACTION – Support. Call House Education Committee Representatives Dubnik, Ch., 656-0213; Erwin, V-Ch., 656-0188; Belton, Sec., 656-3947; Benton, 656-5126; Cantrell, 656-0152; Carter, 656-0220; Cheokas, 463-7853; England, 463-2247; Evans, 656-0109; Glanton, 657-1803; Hill, 656-0325; Howard, 656-6372; Jasperse, 656-7153; Jan Jones, 656-5072; Todd Jones, 463-2246; LaRiccia, 651-7737; Mainor, 656-0126; Nguyen, 656-0314; Nix, 656-5146; Paris, 656-0109; Rich, 656-5087; Setzler, 656-5143; Wade, 656-0188; and Wilson, 656-6372.

S.B. 435 Integrity and Safety in Sports, introduced February 2nd by Senator Marty Harbin, would ensure that females have equal and safe opportunities to succeed in sports. Gender¹ is defined as biological sex recognized solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth. Georgia's local public school systems, local public schools, or participating private schools would prohibit biological males from participating in interscholastic or intramural athletics designated for females. Biological females would be prohibited from participating in such athletics designated for males. A loophole in this bill allows males to participate in female sports and females to participate in male sports, if there is no equivalent interscholastic or intramural athletic program. It passed the Senate 34-22 February 24th.

ACTION – Support. Call House Health & Human Services Committee Representatives Cooper, Ch., 656-5069; Newton, V-Ch., 656-0254; Gaines, Sec., 656-0298; Barr, 656-7857; Barron, 656-0325; Bennett, 656-0202; Beverly, 656-5058; Cheokas, 463-5753; Dempsey, 463-2248; Douglas, 656-7859; Drenner, 656-0202; Frye, 656-0265; Hatchett, 656-5025; Hawkins, 656-7855; Hogan, 656-0178; Howard, 656-6372; Hutchinson, 656-0287; Jasperse, 656-7153; Sheila Jones, 656-0126; Kelley, 656-5024; LaHood, 656-0188; Lott, 651-7737; Mathiak, 656-0298; Mitchell, 656-0126; Parsons, 463-7853; Petrea, 656-7857.

H.B. 1084 Protect Students First Act, introduced February 1st by Representative Will Wade, (a) prohibits curricula and/or training that encourage judging others based on race, the tenet of critical race theory (CRT). It (b) prohibits using such for personnel certification, classification, performance standards, and code of ethics. (c) The Department of Education would suggest compliance policies for local schools and school systems. After hours of floor debate, it passed the House 92-63 on March 4th and is in the Senate Education & Youth committee.

ACTION – SUPPORT. Call Senate Education & Youth Committee Senators listed at the bottom of page 4.

¹ This bill defines gender as biological sexual identity, although gender is a behavioral, cultural or psychological trait. Biological identification of sex is physically evidenced by body structure and immutably fixed by chromosomal DNA. Transitional “re-assignment” of sexual identity does not change biological identity and does not affect DNA.

Traditional Morality, *Going, Going, Gone!*

Although adultery, fornication and other sexual contact remain destructive and continue to be illegal, laws against them are no longer enforced. Actually, such laws are ignored and given monikers to obfuscate reality. Adultery is often dubbed “an affair.” Fornication for all ages is referred to, blithely, as “hooking up,” and acceptable conduct.

Those laws didn’t change, but traditional morals are deemed unimportant, as evidenced in 1968, and discussed on page one. Tragically, bills are continually introduced to diminish the value of marriage and further weaken Georgia’s moral structure. The following is an example of that.

H.B. 1375 Provide Benefits Despite Adulterous Relationship, introduced February 22nd by Representative Beth Moore, moves Georgia further into moral degradation by changing a law requiring death benefits of a deceased spouse to be withheld from the living spouse who is cohabiting with another as man and wife. Current law prohibits the providing of death benefits to a surviving spouse who is cohabiting in a “meretricious relationship,” *Ballentine’s Law Dictionary* defines as, “a sexual relation which is immoral, if not illicit.” “Meretricious” means “lewd, sexually immoral.” This bill implies that moral standards no longer apply to marriage.

ACTION – Oppose. Call House Industry and Labor Representatives Werkheiser, Ch., 404 656-5132; Kirby, V-Ch., 656-0178; Carpenter, 657-1803; Barton, 656-0325; Bonner, 651-7737; Cameron, 656-0188; Carter, 656-0220; England, 463-2247; Hill, 656-0325; Holly, 656-0287; Jones, 463-2246; Kennard, 656-0202; Marin, 656-0314; McClain, 656-0220; Park, 656-034; Pruitt, 656-0188; and Thomas, 656-6372.

H.B. 1458 Housing based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), introduced February 28th by Representative Spencer Frye says it is: “To safeguard all individuals from discrimination in any aspect relating to the sale, rental, or financing of dwellings or in the provision of brokerage services or facilities in connection with the sale or rental of a dwelling because of the individual’s age, color, creed, disability familial status, gender identity, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or source of income.” This favors select groups, denies freedom of choice to others, and further diminishes traditional values.

ACTION – Oppose. Call House Judiciary Committee Representatives Efration, Ch., 404 656-5125; Gunter, V-Ch., 656-0325; Scoggins, Sec., 656-0254; Burchett, 656-5105*; Nix, 656-5146*, Bruce, 656-7859; Dreyer, 656-0265; Fleming, 656-5105; Holcomb, 656-6372; Jones, 463-2246; Kelley, 656-0188; Leverett, 656-0188; Evans, 656-9115; Oliver, 656-0265; Reeves, 651-7737; Rich, 656-5087; Smith, 657-1803; Willensky, 656-0202; and Wilson, 656-6372. (*Ex Officio)

H.B. 1394 No Mandatory Vaccination, introduced February 22nd by Representative Charlice Byrd (a) prohibits state or local government from mandating submission to vaccination or proof of post-infection recovery, as a condition of accessing any government service, building, or space; employment; professional license; accessing or enrolling or attending public or private pre-k, kindergarten, elementary, secondary, or postsecondary education; obtaining certification or a diploma, a license, or degree; accessing transportation; a child care facility, a healthcare facility, a long-term care facility, or nursing home; or entering a place of entertainment or business. (b) It prohibits vaccine/immunization passports/passes or any document to certify individual health status, (c) the wearing of face masks or facial coverings to affect the spread of infectious disease and (d) it applies to persons and entities doing business in Georgia.

ACTION – Support. Call House Health & Human Services Committee Representatives Cooper, Ch., 656-5069; Newton, V-Ch., 656-0254; Gaines, Sec., 656-0298; Barr, 656-7857; Barron, 656-0325; Bennett, 656-0202; Beverly, 656-5058; Cheokas, 463-5753; Dempsey, 463-2248; Douglas, 656-7859; Drenner, 656-0202; Frye, 656-0265; Hatchett, 656-5025; Hawkins, 656-7855; Hogan, 656-0178; Howard, 656-6372; Hutchinson, 656-0287; Jasperse, 656-7153; Sheila Jones, 656-0126; Kelley, 656-5024; LaHood, 656-0188; Lott, 651-7737; Mathiak, 656-0298; Mitchell, 656-0126; Parsons, 463-7853; and Petrea, 656-7857.

Further Updates

S.B. 456¹ Abortion-inducing Drugs in Schools, Prohibit, introduced March 4th by Senator Bruce Thompson states that (a) *only* qualified physicians using these procedures may prescribe abortion-inducing drugs known as “medical,” “medication,” “RU-486,” “Mifeprex regimen” or “drug induced” abortion. (b) Such cannot be otherwise given, sold, dispensed, administered, or transferred and (c) shall not be provided on state grounds or in any k-12 or postsecondary institution receiving state funding. It passed the Senate 31-22 March 1st and is in the House.

ACTION – SUPPORT. Call House Health & Human Services Committee Representatives listed at the bottom of page 3.

S.B. 316 Offense of Stalking a Minor, introduced January 10th by Senator Jason Anavitarte, passed the Senate 33-21 February 14th and is in the House. It provides that (1) anyone over age 18 who stalks a minor would be guilty of a high and aggravated misdemeanor, and fined up to \$5,000 or sentenced to a year in prison or both. (2) Local school boards would inform students and parents of which acts of bullying and cyberbullying may constitute stalking and result in a criminal conviction as a misdemeanor or felony. Judgment would be a fine, prison or both.

ACTION – Support. Call House Education Committee Representatives listed under S.B. 449 on page 2.

S.B. 319 Georgia Constitutional Carry Act of 2021, introduced January 10th by Senator Jason Anavitarte, changes the word “license holder” to “lawful weapons carrier,” defined in S.B. 319 as an individual who is *not prohibited by law* from possessing a weapon or long gun, or who is legally licensed in Georgia or licensed to carry a weapon in another state with laws having the same effect as a license issued pursuant to this. It clarifies whether weapons-carry may be allowed in government buildings, schools/zones/functions/buses, places of worship, game and fish events/places, polling places, courts, in vehicles, and concealed carry. It passed the Senate 34-22 February 28th and is in the House Public Safety & Homeland Security committee.

ACTION – SUPPORT. Call Public Safety & Homeland Security Representatives J Collins, Ch., 404 657-5803; Mathis, V-Ch., 656-0152; Lott, Sec., 651-7737; Clark, 656-7857; Crowe, 656-0325; Evans, 656-0109; Frazier, 656-0265; Glanton, 657-1803; Gravley, 656-5025; Grene, 656-9210; Hitchens, 656-7855; Holcomb, 656-6372; Jackson, 656-0314; Jasperse, 656-7153; Jenkins, 656-0188; Lumsden, 656-7850; Neal, 656-6372; Petrea, 656-5115; Powell, 463-3793; Taylor, 656-7857; Werkheiser, 656-5132; and Williams, 656-0254.

S.B. 326 Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas Monument, pre-filed and officially introduced February 8, 2022, authorizes a monument honoring Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to be placed within the capitol building or grounds, if funded by gifts and donations. The Capitol Art Standards Commission (CASC) would oversee its design, procurement and placement as soon as practicable, after the state has been granted any necessary intellectual property license. This passed the Senate 32 – 21 February 7th and was reported out of the House State Properties Committee February 17th. Then it went into the House Rules committee.

ACTION – SUPPORT. Since the House Rules Committee has 37 members, please call Representatives Richard Smith Ch., 404 656-5141; V-Ch., Ballinger, 656-7153; Jasperse, Sec., 656-7153; Democrats Beverly, 656-5058; Drenner, 656-0202; and Holcomb, 656-6372; Republicans Rich, 656-5024; Kelley, 656-5024; Carson, 656-7855; and Setzler, 656-5143.

H.B. 1292 Rights of Students in 4-H Activity by Representative Rick Jasperse was introduced February 10th and passed the House 162-0 March 1st. It is in the Senate.

ACTION – SUPPORT. Call Senate Education & Youth Committee Senators Payne, Ch., 463-5402; Anavitarte, V-Ch., 656-0085; Sims, Sec., 463-5259; Albers, 463-8055; Brass*, 463-1376; Dolezel, 656-7127; Halpern, 463-1351; Jackson, 463-5261; James, 463-1379; McNeill 656-9644; Parent, 656-5109; Tippins*, 657-0406. (*Ex Officio)

¹ S.B. 456 is, especially, important since S.B. 351 The Woman’s Health & Safety Act is stalled in committee.