

ALGOP Resolution 2022-2-15

RESOLUTION OF THE ALABAMA REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT PARENTAL RIGHTS IN ALABAMA

Whereas government and courts routinely and consistently view parental rights as “ordinary” rights, giving the legislative and judicial branches the power to undermine the family unit without first requiring a compelling state interest; and

Whereas when federal or state legislative or judicial branches have the power to abridge, dismantle, or otherwise diminish parental rights, the systems created to protect children and families may instead harm the family unit; and

Whereas the Alabama Republican Party believes that parental rights are fundamental, natural rights and, as such, are irrevocable without a compelling state interest; and

Whereas nearly a century of U.S. Supreme Court decisions uphold that the parental liberty to direct the upbringing, education, and care of the parent’s child is a natural right; and

Whereas in prior rulings, the Alabama Supreme Court has declared that parental rights are fundamental; and

Whereas the Alabama Federation of Republican Women passed a resolution supporting parental rights in Alabama during its 2015 Legislative Days event; and

Whereas the Alabama legislature has failed to explicitly define the level of protections which are guaranteed to parents in our state, though prior legislation as set forth below has been introduced to preserve fundamental parental rights to no avail:

- 2017: [HB307](#) - Rep. Matt Fridy with 13 cosponsors
- 2016: [HB112](#) - Rep. Matt Fridy with 12 cosponsors
- 2015: [SB135](#) - Sen. Paul Sanford with 3 cosponsors;
[HB213](#) - Rep. Mack Butler with 18 cosponsors;
- 2014: [SB 203](#), Sen. Paul Sanford; and

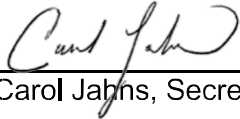
Whereas it is imperative that the Alabama legislature exercise its constitutional authority to protect Alabama parents, children, and families against overzealousness by recognizing and declaring that parental rights are fundamental, natural rights, requiring the highest level of legal protection.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Alabama Republican Executive Committee urge Governor Kay Ivey and the Alabama Legislature to secure and protect parental rights in Alabama by:

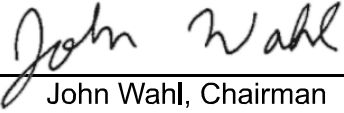
1. declaring every parent has a fundamental, natural right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and custody of the parent’s child;
2. establishing that any interference, restriction, or removal of a parent’s fundamental, natural right requires a compelling governmental interest; and
3. requiring that, if a compelling governmental interest necessitates the disenfranchisement of parental rights, the abridgement of the parent’s fundamental, natural right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and custody of the parent’s child shall be enacted in the least restrictive manner available.

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This resolution adopted by the Alabama Republican Executive Committee on this the 13th day of August 2022, in session at Montgomery, Alabama.



Carol Jahns, Secretary



John Wahl, Chairman

Submitted by: Andrew Sorrell, Lawrence County and Mack Butler, Etowah County