



TO: Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee

FROM: Child Protection League

RE: Testimony in support of HF 22, Parents' Bill of Rights

February 12, 2025

The Child Protection League has been actively engaged in protecting children from exploitation, manipulation, and violence for more than a decade. It should come as no surprise that, from the beginning, the world's and humanity's Creator established an amazing system for protecting children. That system is parents.

The most effective way for government agencies and outside organizations like ours to protect children from harm is to strengthen and encourage that bond of love and commitment between parents and their children.

However, we have encountered from government agencies, schools particularly, a pervasive attitude of suspicion toward parents. Rather than recognizing the fundamental parental protective role parents naturally provide, we observe instead that state agencies and the educational system have assumed a strange role of thinking they must protect children from their parents. This is an insidious and dangerous shift that endangers all children. Public agencies are not driven by love and personal, sacrificial devotion. Nothing can substitute for the mama bears and the papa bears who love their children, often at great risk to themselves.

HF22 establishes in law what should be obvious. Nothing shall *"infringe on the fundamental right of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, and physical and mental health care of the parent's minor child. All parental rights are reserved to a parent of a minor child without obstruction or interference from this state, any political subdivision of this state, or any other governmental entity or institution."* It is unfortunate that such a bill as this is even necessary.

Child Protection League is grateful to Representative Gillman and the many other co-authors of this bill for introducing HF22. We encourage its unanimous support.

Julie Quist

Child Protection League

Dear Legislatures,

My name is Bridget Kamas , and I am writing you this letter in regards to the parent bill of rights that is coming up on Wednesday. I am a mother of two children, I have a sophomore in college and a sophomore in high school. When my son was in eighth grade, three years ago, he received a severe knee injury while playing football. We were told the very beginning, we didn't know if he was going to be able to walk again properly, he was going to need major surgery, and that he would never play football again. Those early moments in the emergency room were extremely scary, filled with tears, sadness, as any parents who has had a child who has been injured, can relate.

I'm writing you this letter to explain to you what our life look like for the next two years as our son recovered. At the time my son was injured. He was 12 years old, soon to turn 13. As we began his journey of surgeries, physical therapy, and mental health therapy we as his parents were given access to everything to make the appropriate decisions for him to get him better. We were lucky to find one of the very top surgeons in the state, and a top physical therapist. And so our journey began that fall and into winter, everything was running smoothly. And then my son turned 13. And this is when our problems began.

It was a small things at first, making appointments for him, checking him in, trying to confirm an appointment time over the phone, or online. Come to find out, now that my son had turned 13 and the laws in the state of Minnesota, we, as his parents, were not allowed to get access to his patient portal. As I dug deeper to solve this problem, I was told that this was Minnesota law. It was not anything that Tria had in place. And they unfortunately, had to enforce it, even though they did not even agree with it themselves. Specifically, I was told "this is one of the most ridiculous things that are in place, has caused us more problems. Unfortunately these law makers think they are doing something good but have no real world understanding of the implementation and implications of the laws, they make sometimes.

I asked if there was documentation, if I could get power of medical attorney to alleviate this problem of me navigating my 13-year-old sons much needed medical services. Lawyers told me it would still be problematic, there's no waiver available for the child to sign.

Where was the logic in this? My 13-year-old doesn't have the knowledge to ask the doctor, the appropriate questions that need to be asked as it relates to his knee. He had to be reminded on the daily basis of his physical therapy that he needed to do at home, from me, his mother. All because of this law that allows 13 year olds to have the privacy as it relates to their medical services.

So after weeks of going round and round with Tria, a lawyer, and my son. I stood up for my son's medical care. I went into every single appointment, when the doctor asked my son if he wanted me in the room. I told the doctor, unless the doctor was paying for this visit I was staying in the room. "There was no reason for me NOT to be in the room. This is about his knee and his ability to walk. As his parent, as his guardian, as his caretaker, as a person who pays all of his bills, I will stay in the room. Unless you're going to take that over."

No parents should have to have this conversation with their child's doctor. You have created additional issues for the already overwhelmed medical system.

With the attempt of you trying to protect less than one percent of the children who have mental health issues, gender identity issues that they don't want their parents to know. And whatever else that you want to categorize as children that need help. You're hurting the other 99% of children that actually need their parents to help them. And this is a clear cut case of that. Because of the law that you currently have in place, you have made it twice as hard, twice as difficult, twice as time consuming, for me as a parent to take care of my child and ensure proper medical treatment for him.

Parents have the right to make medical decisions for their children. We as parents do not need government to make decisions for us. My son put it best, "Mom I don't understand!? I can't drive, I can't drink, I can't get a job, I can't vote, I can't have my own credit card, I don't have my own money, I don't have my own insurance. But I can make my own medical decisions? Why would they put this in place for us kids. Bad things will happen"

Thank you for your time,

Bridget Kamas

WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD
MN HOUSE HEARING HF22 – PARENTS’ BILL OF RIGHTS
MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025, 3:00 PM

Minnesotans for Health & Parental Rights has been a trusted community for over a decade, bringing together families, healthcare practitioners, legal professionals, educators, childcare providers, and business owners. What began as a grassroots support group grew into a broader movement as we encountered more families facing unexpected challenges.

As these needs grew, so did our mission. We began collaborating with like-minded organizations, including ParentalRights.Org, a national nonprofit dedicated to protecting parental rights. Together, we work to equip parents with the knowledge and connections they need to make informed decisions for their children. Whether it’s providing resources for families navigating educational or healthcare decisions, helping them advocate in accessing services for disabled loved ones, supporting healthcare professionals and educators, or fostering open discussions, our goal remains the same: to strengthen communities by ensuring families have access to the information and support they need.

For generations, parental rights were considered a given—a fundamental principle guiding families and society. It was widely understood that parents are the most invested, best equipped, and most reasonable individuals to make decisions for their minor children, raising them according to their values and cultural traditions. This principle shaped legal and societal norms for centuries. However, in 2000, the Supreme Court’s split decision in *Troxel v. Granville* opened the door for individual judges and states to apply their own interpretations of parental rights. This has led to inconsistency, confusion, and a lack of stability for families seeking to fulfill their role as the primary decision-makers in their children’s lives.

Our testimony today reflects the experiences of countless parents and professionals who have turned to us for help navigating these challenges. Many were invited to testify in person, but most were either unable to attend on short notice or too fearful of the potential consequences of sharing their stories publicly. In today’s volatile political climate, families worry about being singled out or made an example of as states and the federal government begin to clash over authority in these matters. We appreciate the opportunity to share their voices and underscore the importance of strong families as the foundation of strong communities.

Real-World Experiences from Families Underscoring the Need for a Parents’ Bill of Rights

Parental Access to Medical Records & Treatment Decisions

- Parents of a 12-year-old with profound autism were denied access to their child’s medical records due to company privacy policies, delaying necessary care for chronic conditions.

- Parents of an 8-year-old diagnosed with PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections) were similarly locked out of their child's medical records.
- Hundreds of families across Minnesota—including those using Fairview, Health Partners, Mayo, CentraCare, Gillette, Allina, Essentia, and Children's hospitals and clinics—have reported similar experiences.
- Parents have been forced out of exam rooms while their preteen or teenage children receive medical care, despite their objections.
- A hospital refused to inform a single mother about her 14-year-old's treatment plan because the child did not want her involved—despite the fact that the child was hospitalized for refusing to take prescribed medications in the first place.

Threats & Consequences for Seeking Alternative or Informed Care

- A South Metro family was subjected to a CPS investigation after taking their child to a chiropractor for complementary therapy to relieve pain from a medical condition. Despite chiropractic care being used alongside standard treatment, CPS continues to monitor the family.
- Numerous families have been denied organ transplants for refusing COVID-19, flu, or other vaccines.
- Several families were threatened with CPS intervention for declining the Hepatitis B vaccine at birth—despite the fact that Hepatitis B is primarily transmitted through sexual contact or shared needles.
- Hundreds of families have been denied medical care at various clinics due to their personal medical decisions.

Education & Parental Rights in Schools

- School districts have attempted to deny parents access to curriculum and have refused requests to opt their children out of content that does not align with their culture, faith or belief system.
- Schools have administered controversial surveys to students, even after parents explicitly opted out.
- A family with a special needs child was pressured and bullied by their public school when they decided to homeschool.

Parental Exclusion from Their Children's Mental Health & Well-being

- A Minneapolis couple was denied the right to participate in family therapy with their 16-year-old. The clinic cited privacy concerns, even though the child had not requested confidentiality.
- Parents of a teenager struggling with anxiety, OCD, and focus issues were told their child had to personally consent to a neuropsychological evaluation before they could proceed.
- A psychologist denied parents access to information about what medications and dosages were prescribed to their teenager experiencing suicidal ideations.

A Parents' Bill of Rights would provide critical protection for families, ensuring their ability to make informed decisions without fear of government overreach or medical coercion.

We have also received feedback from both education and healthcare professionals who have expressed significant concerns about the growing challenges they face in balancing institutional policies with the rights of parents and families. Below are some of the key issues they have raised:

Concerns from Healthcare Professionals

- **Unprofessional Conduct and Violations of Medical Ethics:** Providers report seeing an increase in unprofessional conduct by institutions, often in violation of American Medical Association (AMA) standards, leading to decreased trust in healthcare systems.
- **Lack of Accountability:** The Minnesota Medical Board's failure to enforce compliance with AMA standards has contributed to a loss of confidence among patients and healthcare professionals.
- **Limited Access to Care:** Families are increasingly avoiding certain hospitals due to concerns over institutional policies that do not align with patients' rights or medical ethics. They are also being denied care from numerous clinics and losing access to essential services.
- **Non-traditional Healthcare:** Many families are turning to alternative care paths because they feel their rights to informed consent and medical decision-making are being disregarded.
- **Undue Pressure on Parents:** Providers have observed cases where parental consent is bypassed or ignored in favor of institutional mandates, reducing parents' ability to make informed decisions about their children's health.

A Parents' Bill of Rights would provide clearer boundaries for healthcare professionals, ensuring that parents have the autonomy to make informed decisions without fear of overreach or discrimination.

Concerns from Educational Professionals

- **Withholding Information from Parents:** Teachers report being instructed not to disclose certain discussions, lessons, or services provided to students, particularly on sensitive topics.
- **Limited Parental Involvement:** Schools require student consent—not parental—for mental health services, assessments, and disciplinary actions, excluding parents from key decisions.
- **Confusing Opt-Out Policies:** Inconsistent guidelines create frustration for both educators and parents trying to navigate curriculum exemptions and school surveys.
- **Overreaching Government Mandates:** Educators feel state and federal directives often override parental input, prioritizing compliance over student needs.
- **Parental Exclusion in Discipline:** Schools enforce suspensions and behavioral interventions without sufficient parental involvement, leaving educators in a difficult position.
- **Special Education Barriers:** Bureaucratic obstacles make it harder for parents to advocate for IEPs and accommodations, restricting collaboration between educators and families.

A Parents' Bill of Rights would provide clear guidelines to support educators in working transparently with families, ensuring parents remain actively involved in their children's education.

In conclusion, the experiences shared today highlight the urgent need for a *Parents' Bill of Rights* to provide clear, consistent protection for parents and families across Minnesota. As we've seen, the lack of clarity in current statutes leaves families vulnerable to confusion, discrimination, and unnecessary interventions by institutions. By ensuring that parental rights are firmly established and respected, we can foster stronger communities where families have the support and autonomy to make the best decisions for their children. A *Parents' Bill of Rights* will not only safeguard the role of parents but also help educators, healthcare providers, and other professionals navigate their responsibilities with confidence, ultimately benefiting everyone in Minnesota. Thank you for the opportunity to share these concerns and advocate for a stronger, more supportive framework for families across our state.

Sincerely,

Minnesotans for Health & Parental Rights

ParentalRights.org | MN



Mr. Brad McGarr
1701 W. Burnsville Pkwy Apt 312
Burnsville, MN 55337-2453

11 February 2025

Minnesota House of Representatives
Children & Families Committee

RE: HF22

Dear Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives Children & Families Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HF22. As a parent and a religious sexual education facilitator, I believe this bill fundamentally undermines the rights of young people to bodily autonomy, privacy, and self-determination. It directly violates their basic human right to make decisions about their own bodies and health.

As a parent, I understand the desire to protect and guide my child. However, I also recognize that they are individuals with the right to make their own choices, particularly concerning their bodies and health. This bill infringes upon that fundamental right. It is my role as a parent to prepare my child to make good choices for themselves, and how to use their freedoms and rights responsibly. While some parents may wish to exert complete control over their child's life from birth to age 17, this desire does not negate the child's inherent rights. It is an inappropriate overreach that the state is duty-bound to protect children from. Young people deserve the space to grow into fully functioning, independent adults. This requires ensuring that they have increasing rights and responsibilities as they mature, including the right to make informed decisions about their healthcare and education. As parents, we have a responsibility to respect and defend the rights of our children, not to erode them.

As a religious sexual education facilitator, I've witnessed firsthand the positive impact of comprehensive and age-appropriate education. This bill hinders access to vital information, leaving young people vulnerable and uninformed. It also strips them of the ability to have open and honest conversations with their healthcare providers regarding their sexual, physical, and mental health. Young people must be able to have private conversations with doctors and therapists, knowing that these conversations will remain confidential. Preventing these conversations can deter young people from seeking necessary care, potentially enabling familial abuse to flourish. Young people may be afraid to share details of physical, mental, or sexual abuse with a practitioner for fear of retribution from their abusers. Furthermore, this bill could prevent a young person from accessing confidential reproductive healthcare, potentially leading to increased rates of unintended pregnancy and negatively impacting their future.

As a Unitarian Universalist, I believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, including young people. This bill disregards their agency and their ability to make informed decisions. Children are not simply property of their parents. They are individuals with inherent rights that must be respected and protected, including the right to privacy and self-determination. These rights do not suddenly appear at age 18; they evolve as children mature. This bill seeks to rob our children and youth from their independence and autonomy. If we wish to see our youth mature into responsible adults, they must be able to begin making their own decisions early.

I urge you to reject HF22 and instead champion legislation that safeguards the rights and well-being of all young people in our state. Our children may not be voting citizens, but they are citizens non-the-less, and should be afforded all the rights and privileges citizens enjoy to the extent that their age and maturity allows. It

is the duty of the state to protect their individual rights, including from parents, no matter how well meaning their intent may be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley McGarr", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bradly McGarr (He/Him/His)
Burnsville, Minnesota

Annabelle McGarr
1701 W. Burnsville Pkwy Apt 312
Burnsville, MN 55337-2453

11 February 2025

Minnesota House of Representatives
Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee

Dear House Representatives,

My name is Annabelle McGarr, I am 10 years old and I am a 4th grader at Red Oak Elementary in Shakopee. I am writing in about HF22, the parents bill of rights. As a kid I don't want to be bossed around and I want to make my own decisions about my life. As I become a teenager, I need to be able to talk to my doctor privately without my parents, and have more say in my health and education. Even as a minor child, I deserve a level of privacy. This bill takes my rights away. I want to have freedom in my life, and the freedom to make my own choices. I want the independence to do things on my own, so I know what I am doing for when I become an adult. My parents give me helpful advice, but this is my life - not theirs. I'm not a thing to be owned and bossed. I am a person. With a say in things that will impact me forever.

I ask this committee to not pass HF22 - these are not your rights to take away from me and children like me. Please respect us as full citizens, not property.

Thank you, for reading my thoughts on HF22.

Sincerely,

Annabelle McGarr

PARENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS

TO ENSURE MINNESOTA PARENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DIRECT ANYTHING THAT AFFECTS THE UPBRINGING, EDUCATION AND WELL- BEING OF THEIR CHILDREN.

WHY DO WE NEED A PARENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS?

- Prior to the year 2000, the Supreme Court followed the doctrine that parents have a fundamental right to direct the upbringing and education of their children.
 - Then in the case, Troxel v. Granville, the Supreme Court issued a split decision, which opened the door for individual judges and states to apply their own varying interpretations to parental rights.
 - Parental rights SHOULD be simple to understand and protect.
 - Statutes outlining parental rights are currently scattered throughout Minnesota law and contain many gaps, resulting in unclear guidelines to agencies.
 - This confusion leads to unnecessary infringement and trauma to Minnesota families.
 - Parental rights affect everyone- it is important that Minnesota's large immigrant population be guaranteed their parental rights so they may continue to educate their children, observe medical practices and direct the upbringing of their children according to their heritage and cultural beliefs.
 - Placing rights into the hands of parents, rather than businesses and broken institutions, protects children from discrimination based on their race, religion, economic status, etc... which they may not have the experience to recognize.
 - Passage of the "Parent's Bill of Rights" will fill the gaps and provide a clear single statute on fundamental rights and responsibilities for all Minnesota citizens.
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EDUCATION

DIRECT THE UPBRINGING, MORAL OR RELIGIOUS ENVIRONMENT OF THE MINOR CHILD.

THE RIGHT TO DIRECT THE EDUCATION OF THE MINOR CHILD, WHETHER IT BE PUBLIC, CHARTER, PRIVATE, OR HOME EDUCATION.

ACCESS, REVIEW, AND OVERSEE THE PRIVACY OF ALL RECORDS RELATING TO THE MINOR CHILD.

DATA

CONSENT IN WRITING:

BEFORE ANY BIOMETRIC SCAN OF THE MINOR CHILD OCCURS OR IS SHARED OR STORED.

BEFORE ANY RECORD OF THE MINOR CHILD'S BLOOD OR DNA IS MADE, SHARED, OR STORED.

BEFORE THE STATE OR ANY OF ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS MAKES A VIDEO OR VOICE RECORDING OF THE MINOR CHILD.

MEDICAL

THE CHOICE OF HEALTH CARE TEAM & THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR DECLINE BIOLOGICAL, PHARMACEUTICAL, & SUPPLEMENTAL INTERVENTIONS IN COORDINATION WITH THE SELECTED HEALTH CARE TEAM.

CONSENT IN WRITING BEFORE ANY EXAMINATION, PHARMACEUTICAL, SURGICAL, OR THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS TAKE PLACE, UNLESS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY EXISTS REQUIRING TREATMENT TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE MINOR CHILD

PROTECTING CHILDREN BY EMPOWERING PARENTS

Nadine Monge

4022 Thomas Ave N

Minneapolis, MN 55412

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612-584-8360

February 11, 2025

Subject: Support for HF22 to Restore Basic Parental Rights to educational, medical and data privacy decisions

Dear Representative Nolan West ,

I am writing to express my strong support for restoration of HF22 , which aims to protect and uphold the fundamental rights of parents in making decisions regarding their children's education, healthcare, and upbringing. As a special needs single parent who just went through a Legal Medical Kidnapping, I believe it is essential that our laws recognize and safeguard the role of parents in shaping the lives of their children and having rights to Medical decisions and to be notified when adding any medications that were not approved. My rights were taken away when my son was in a 7 1/2 month holding to gain 150 pounds by being on these dangerous medications which did not help.

The weight was gained due to these antipsychotics and being held in a room to gain weight. He also obtained problems with his pallet in which he had difficulty breathing and could not access his pallet due to those medication's. The mix of medication's was dangerous and caused complications. I did not sign any case plan for CPS because I never did anything but advocate and take my son into the ER for medical treatment and help to keep my family and him safe.

I also had rights taken away while trying to obtain medical records from a clinic. I ended up having to relinquish my signature and pick my records up in person, giving them the signed release of information. If I had not known my rights being a Certified Medical Coder, they would have gotten away with that corruption.

Many, who are in Minnesota do not know their rights and have language barriers. My son's rights to schooling was also taken away, and he was not educated in the hospital for a very long time. When he did receive the education, it was late in his hospitalization.

When he left the hospital and ended up in the DHS home, CPS and Local schools took away the right to be at his old school and transferred him to a new school which caused trauma.

CPS took away a lot, like Fraser Autism Services and providers like Gillette Specialty Center and they also took away providers who disappeared suddenly from my son's life, which was crucial for him to grow for his severe profound Autism.

They literally took two years of my son's life held and housed, away from the family that he knows and loves, causing severe trauma and he will deal with severe psychological problems and medical complications for life. It's unfortunate that innocent families are attacked like this, but I do want to assure that parental rights are enforced even when CPS takes control.

This bill ensures that parents will be primary decision-makers in critical aspects of their children's lives and prevents unnecessary government overreach. In an era where parental authority is increasingly challenged, legislation like this is crucial to preserving family values and protecting children's well-being.

I urge you to support and advocate for the remediation of HF22 bill. Parental rights should never be undermined, and this legislation is a necessary step in reinforcing those rights. Thank you for your time and dedication to serving our community. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your support on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Nadine Monge

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Minneapolis, MN 55412

nadinemonge@yahoo.com

612-584-8360

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing to express concerns about the proposed Parent Bill of Rights.

This law seems to be primarily comprised of fluff and nonsense, but one section seeks to strip a right to medical privacy from our young people. There is simply no need to prevent young men and women in their teens from seeking medical care without written consent from their guardians. These folks are often trusted to handle responsibilities on their own such as attending school, driving motor vehicles, and even holding down paying jobs.

There isn't any reason we should force anyone to get permission from anybody to see any kind of doctor they want, be that from their parents, the government, their jobs or their insurance providers.

Thank You

William Knight