

ENROLLED
HM 557

2011 Legislature

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress to propose to the states for ratification an
4 amendment to the United States Constitution relating to
5 parental rights.

6
7 WHEREAS, the right of parents to direct the upbringing and
8 education of their children is a fundamental right protected by
9 the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Florida,
10 and

11 WHEREAS, our nation has historically relied first and
12 foremost on parents to meet the real and constant needs of
13 children, and

14 WHEREAS, the interests of children are best served when
15 parents are free to make childrearing decisions about education,
16 religion, and other areas of a child's life without state
17 interference, and

18 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in *Wisconsin v.*
19 *Yoder* held that "This primary role of the parents in the
20 upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as
21 an enduring American tradition," and

22 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in *Troxel v.*
23 *Granville* produced six different opinions on the nature and
24 enforceability of parental rights under the United States
25 Constitution, creating confusion and ambiguity about the
26 fundamental nature of parental rights in the laws and society of
27 the several states, and

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28 WHEREAS, a number of members of Congress have introduced
29 joint resolutions that propose an amendment to the United States
30 Constitution to prevent erosion of the enduring American
31 tradition of treating parental rights as fundamental rights,
32 commonly referred to as the Parental Rights Amendment, and

33 WHEREAS, the Parental Rights Amendment will add explicit
34 text to the Constitution of the United States to forever protect
35 the rights of parents as they are now enjoyed, without
36 substantive change to current state or federal laws respecting
37 these rights, and

38 WHEREAS, such enumeration of these rights in the text of
39 the United States Constitution will preserve them from being
40 infringed upon by the shifting ideologies and interpretations of
41 the United States Supreme Court, NOW, THEREFORE,

42
43 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

44
45 That the Florida Legislature respectfully petitions the
46 Congress of the United States to propose to the states an
47 amendment to the Constitution of the United States to read as
48 follows:

49 ARTICLE ____

50 Section 1. The liberty of parents to direct the upbringing
51 and education of their children is a fundamental right.

52 Section 2. Neither the United States nor any State shall
53 infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its
54 governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest
55 order and not otherwise served.

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56 Section 3. No treaty may be adopted nor shall any source
57 of international law be employed to supersede, modify,
58 interpret, or apply to the rights guaranteed by this article.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
60 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
61 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
62 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
63 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.