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Idaho Joins Growing List of Parental Rights States

-- April 8, 2015

On Thursday, April 2, Governor Butch Otter signed Idaho's parental rights bill into law, adding to the growing list of states who have opted to preserve fundamental parental rights through legislation.

H0113, proposed by Rep. Janet Trujillo and the House State Affairs Committee, amends Chapter 10, Title 32 of the Idaho code in several places to **preserve a parent's "fundamental right and duty to make decisions concerning [the] care, custody, and control" of their children**. It also precludes the state or "any political subdivision thereof" from interfering with these rights unless the interference is shown by clear and convincing evidence to serve a compelling governmental interest by the least restrictive means.

Michigan code 380.10 was the first known parental rights statute in the country. Adopted in 1996, that bill was penned by attorney Chris Klicka and ParentalRights.org president Michael Farris.

Since then, several other states have adopted legislation to protect this most basic of human rights. Nevada, Utah, Texas, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Arizona all have laws protecting the role of parents from government intrusion. And in 2013 Kansas passed a religious freedom bill that specifically codified this fundamental right as well.

Bills in Colorado, Nebraska, West Virginia, and Wyoming all suffered defeat this year, though it is telling that **none of them failed in an actual vote**. Political wrangling choked off this popular legislation in three states, while the West Virginia legislature simply ran out of time to take up the measure. (**Editor's note:** This paragraph has been changed to correct an error it originally contained regarding our experience in Wyoming. The bill was not rejected for being too limited as originally reported. We apologize for the error.)

Efforts in Missouri (HB 557, SB 562), Alabama (HB 213, SB 135), and New Jersey (S2100, A4234) are still underway. In addition, [House Concurrent Resolution 36](#) in Texas would call on the U.S. Congress to adopt the Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and send it to the states for ratification.

Get Involved

For most states either the legislative session is coming to an end or the deadline to introduce new legislation has passed. But that doesn't mean you can't help us secure parental rights in your state.

The best and most immediate thing you can do is **help grow our list so that the voice for parental rights grows louder in your district and state**. Do this by encouraging friends and family members to join our email list at parentalrights.org/petition.

Then consider signing up as a volunteer at parentalrights.org/volunteer. Finally, **your generous donation at parentalrights.org/donate will help fund these ongoing efforts until parental rights are secured in every state**.

Together we will *win the fight* to protect children by securing parental rights for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Michael Ramey
Director of Communications & Research

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