Dear XXXXX:

I am writing to ask for your support for S. 204/H.R. 650, The Families’ Rights and Responsibilities Act. It was introduced by Sen. Tim Scott and Sen. James Lankford/Rep. Virginia Foxx in January, and it restores parental rights as a “top-tier” right on par with freedom of speech and freedom of religion in federal law. It clarifies that fundamental rights protected include the right to direct the education, to direct the moral and religious upbringing, and “to access and review all medical records of the child and to make and consent to all physical and mental health care decisions for the child.”

As a military spouse, this legislation would have direct implications for my family as healthcare and education are two areas where military parents’ rights are being violated by the federal government.

In the Military Health System (MHS), policies set forth by the Defense Health Agency (DHA) at the Department of Defense (DOD) restrict parents of children ages 13 to 17 (and the adolescents, themselves) from viewing online medical records on MHS Genesis. Parents can only view appointment information, secure messages, immunizations, and allergy information. In regard to paper copies, parents can ask for a copy of their adolescent’s medical records at a base clinic, but they must obtain their minor child’s permission to view any sensitive records.

Furthermore, educators in Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools overseas have facilitated social gender transitions without the knowledge or consent of parents, and teachers at an official DEI professional development summit held in 2021 trained other educators to do the same. Lessons have also been included in the official curricula that promote transgender ideology, as is additionally evidenced by their recent removal due to President Trump’s Executive Order *Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government*. DoDEA has refused to answer congressional inquiries into these practices.

In my family’s case, when we were stationed overseas, my child’s medical provider, a complete stranger to us, asked me to leave the room in order to ask my daughter “more invasive questions” (her actual words). I did not leave, and I later learned from a viral Twitter video of her that she was asking inappropriate questions to children about sexual orientation and gender identity. Additionally, while overseas, I also learned that I was restricted from accessing my child’s online medical record when she turned 12 (it’s now 13 for MHS Genesis).

In regard to the DoDEA school, we found the core courses to be lacking in academic rigor. We also learned that DoDEA headquarters was promoting DEI, which included skin-color-based-racism and gender ideology, via its teacher training. Because of poor academics and DEI, we decided to homeschool our child for our remaining two years overseas.

The FRRA could provide standing for parents to challenge, for example, a future presidential administration should it reimplement the Biden Administration’s interpretation of Title IX regulations that redefined sex to include gender identity. DoDEA has used Title IX as justification to hide children’s social gender transitions and to include curricula or lessons that promoted gender theory.

Also, if DOD via MHS or the Defense Health Agency continues to prohibit parental access to adolescent minors’ online medical records in MHS Genesis, and/or if recipients of Tricare or Medicaid payments were to withhold medical information or assist children with a medical gender transition without parental consent, this law could provide parents with more assured legal recourse than they currently have. It also waives attorney fees that would normally make legal action cost prohibitive for many military families on a fixed income.

In closing, please consider co-sponsoring the FRRA. Your support as a representative [or Senator] of a district [state] with a large constituency of military families would send a powerful message to the families in xxxx.

Thank you,

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