Dear Sen. XXXXX:

I am writing to ask for your co-sponsorship of S. 204, The Families’ Rights and Responsibilities Act. It was introduced by Sen. Tim Scott and Sen. James Lankford in January (and in the House by Rep. Virginia Foxx), 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.

This legislation could give parents standing in court to challenge federal overreach when it affects their children.

Thank you, and I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

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