

Parenting Column:
Fundamental Rights of Parents
By Denize Verduzco

Parenting - the ability to care for, protect, love, nurture, and raise up children to become productive members of society. When a child is born, the idea is for that child to belong to their father and mother, not to Uncle Sam. While parenting comes with many obstacles, it seems that the fight to protect children from external forces is increasing. For the many children who attend public school, that system has now become a force of competition for parents. It seems as if there is a tacit school policy that the parents' rights will end at the gate, and once in the gate, the child is in the possession of the state or school district. Children are malleable, we understand that, and we have seen a wave of ... if a child is consistently learning what the State wants them to learn, then the State's influence has echoed louder than that of the home.

The removal of morals in the public school system is a prime example of that echoing. Prior to the 1960's, morals were a subject taught not only in homes, but schools nationwide. Public schools adopted what most parents were already teaching in the home, which translated into society. In the mid 1940's and 1960's, cases that were passed in the Supreme Court such as: *McCollum V. Board of Education*, *Engle V. Vitale*, and *Abington Township School District V. Schempp*, were the reason why the teaching of morals were removed from public schools. Nonetheless, in 1965, when schools could no longer teach on morals, the effects it had on society started to show. For instance, according to David Barton's book: *America: To Pray or Not to Pray*, after 1965, violent crimes increased by 350% among 13–14-year-old girls, 449% among 15-year-old girls, 520% among 16-year-old girls, and 572% among 17-year-old girls. In the same book, you can find that there was an increase for divorce rates, rape arrests, pregnancies to unwed girls, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases by analyzing the statistical figures.

It seems as if the pursuit of the State in advancing their agenda... has not grown tiresome. If stripping away morals was not sufficient, they have effectively come after children's innocence and purity. Assembly Bill 329, Comprehensive Sex Education for Students, was passed in 2016. Prior to this bill, any time a school taught on sexual education, they first required the consent of the parent. However, this bill has now allowed for schools to teach on this subject without parental consent. The schools are allowed to teach kindergarteners about different genders and pronouns. They have allowed for middle school and high school children to be taught about birth control, masturbation, abortions, morning after pill, and sexual intercourse; once again, without parental consent. Subjects that should be taught at home, with the influence and direction of parents, have now been handed over to the State.

Furthermore, the last two years awakened many parents to the role of the States' influence over their children. When COVID-19 hit, and mandates were implemented, many parents came to a hard realization. A realization that the State had more power over their children than ever

intended. When children were not able to attend school because of government mandates – it was as if the straw on the camel’s back had finally broken. For that reason, a grassroots movement of momma bears, and daddy bears hit school board meetings, city council meetings and medical facilities, advocating for family freedom and rights. Ideally, parents could have pulled their kids from public school and put them in private school or homeschooling. However, the truth of the matter is, not many parents had the ability or capability to do so. So, what was there left to do? Fight back. How? By allowing their voice echo louder than those of the government. By taking back the ability to make decisions for their families without coercion or infringement from the government. Uncle Sam has made it clear that they will continue to come after children. They will continue to push their agenda and integrate their concepts onto the public-school systems. Concepts such as: critical race theory, sexual orientation, gender fluidity, and medical tyranny. Concepts that should be introduced and discussed at home.

Being a parent in these times has proven to be very difficult and ever evolving. However, the fundamental rights of parents over their children should be protected and not stripped away. Parents should have the right to choose what their children are being taught. Parents should have the right to choose what their children are being inundated with. Parents should not be forced to hand over their rights to a group of systems influenced by the government. To protect the purity and innocence of children, parents must continue to fight back by being a voice that echoes louder than those of the outside. Rights end whenever people become silent.

Join me on the next edition, as we continue to tackle some of these issues head-on. Till next time...Denize Verduzco