

Proposed “Parental Rights” Bills

This year, the South Carolina legislature has introduced several bills **marketed as “parental rights” legislation.**

***Read on** to find out more about what these bills really do, and why they are potentially harmful to South Carolina students and families.*



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Proposed “Parental Rights” Bills

House Bill 4757 (multiple sponsors)

According to state Moms for Liberty groups, this bill was **written by the Arizona-based, anti-LGBTQ+ Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)**, which has been **labeled a hate group** by the Southern Poverty Law Center..

*Like other “parental rights” bills in South Carolina, this one is designed to benefit radical out-of-state organizations rather than the children and taxpayers of our state. ADF previously provided some of the **only support for anti-trans legislation in South Carolina** that received hours of negative from South Carolinians.*



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Proposed “Parental Rights” Bills

House Bill 4757 (multiple sponsors)

Makes it easier for some parents to **sue school districts**, which will ultimately end up **costing taxpayers and schools**, while continuing to pit schools and families against one another.

The bill functions similarly to State Board Regulation 43-170, a book ban policy which has already resulted in more book bans statewide in South Carolina than in any other state.



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Claims to create a sweeping list of “fundamental rights of parents”. Most of these are **already established by federal and state laws.**

Federal laws like FERPA and IDEA already protect student and parent privacy rights and access to services. Instead of giving districts resources to better comply with these existing laws, H. 4757 is heavy on rhetoric around “parental rights” that already exist.



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Would **require school staff to out LGBTQ+ students** by revealing private information about gender identity or orientation, even in cases where outing a student may expose them to danger, neglect, or abuse.

*True collaboration between families and schools is vital to students’ academic success and wellbeing, but **forced outing puts kids at greater risk of abuse, neglect, and abandonment.***



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Would require **a minimum of five days’ notice** from educators and consent from parents for a sweeping variety of lessons and materials vaguely related to “gender”.

In addition to unfairly targeting LGBTQ+ students, families, and staff, this requirement would make it much harder for teachers to respond organically to student questions, have conversations about current events, and make lessons relevant. Parent access to school materials is a good thing, but it should not come at the expense of chilling conversations about important topics.



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Would create **legal gray areas** for students without legal “parents” as defined in the bill.

H. 4757 narrowly defines parents and guardians. Many students without adults currently filling this role, such as students living in group care settings, may be unable to access important educational and health services if this bill passes as written.



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Would **eliminate existing legal protections** for young adults over 16 to receive medical treatment.

H. 4757 prevents even high school-age students from accessing healthcare services.



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A similar Senate bill, **S. 651 (sponsored by Josh Kimbrell)**, would create a state “**Office of Parental Rights**”.

It is troubling that during a time of real resource disparities between school districts, with students facing unprecedented problems, the legislature is so fixated on the rhetoric of “parental rights” while doing little to make education more accessible for all students and families.



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Proposed “Parental Rights” Bills

The rights of ALL parents and children should be supported in ways that protect ALL children. These bills, just like our current book ban regulation, would empower small groups of parents at the expense of every other family in SC.

Urge public officials to protect ALL students and families!



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Proposed “Parental Rights” Bills

House Bill 4757 (multiple sponsors)

- According to state Moms for Liberty groups, this bill was **written by the Arizona-based, anti-LGBTQ+ Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)**, which has been **labeled a hate group** by the Southern Poverty Law Center.
- Makes it easier for some parents to sue school districts, which will ultimately end up **costing taxpayers and wasting educational resources, while continuing to pit schools and families against one another.**
- Claims to create a sweeping list of “fundamental rights of parents”. Most of these are **already established by federal and state laws.**
- Would **require school staff to out LGBTQ+ students**, even in cases where outing a student may expose them to danger, neglect, or abuse.
- Would require the State Board of Education, **which has already approved one of the country’s most sweeping book ban regulations**, to create a model “parental rights” policy for school districts.
- Would require a **minimum of five days’ notice from educators and consent from parents** for a sweeping variety of lessons and materials vaguely **related to gender.**
- Would create **legal gray areas** for students without legal “parents” as defined in the bill.
- Would **eliminate existing legal protections** for young adults over 16 to receive medical treatment.

A similar Senate bill, **S. 651 (sponsored by Josh Kimbrell)**, would create state **“Office of Parental Rights”**.

The rights of ALL parents and children should be supported in ways that protect ALL children. These bills, just like our current book ban regulation, would empower small groups at the expense of the average family in SC.

Urge public officials to protect ALL students and families!