

Parents Bill of Rights Act Enhances Children's Education

Dear Representative:

We want to express our support for **H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights Act** that is scheduled for House floor consideration this week.

All parents should have the right to send their children to the school of their choice, but those who send their children to government schools have a right to know what is being taught in those schools and to make decisions about what is best for their children's education. We commend the sponsors of H.R. 5 on the five principles that schools should follow:

1. Parents have the right to know what's being taught;
2. Parents have the right to be heard;
3. Parents have a right to see the school budget and spending;
4. Parents have the right to protect their child's privacy; and
5. Parents have the right to be updated on any violent activity at school.

It's bad enough that the major teachers' unions have decided to become advocates for one left wing cause after another. They should not be allowed to indoctrinate children about their highly ideological agenda and to do so in a manner that hides these efforts from parents. Children's test scores on basic skills continue to decline as many schools allow their curriculums to be diverted and core subjects to be neglected. In order to hide these failures, some school systems are proposing to eliminate or inflate grades and to forego universal testing – often invoking the argument that this is being done in the name of “equity” or to protect students’ “self-esteem”.

As America faces increasing global competition – particularly from countries that are hostile to our values and the concept of individual freedom – we cannot afford to let our students fall behind. Parents know what is best for their children and they have a right to instill their values, without fear of teachers and school administrators working to undermine their beliefs.

H.R. 5 takes an important step in protecting the right of parents in the area of education. Therefore, we are pleased to lend our support to this timely legislation.

Sincerely,

Star Parker
President

Marty Dannenfelser
VP, Government Relations & Coalitions