



PARENTAL RIGHTS A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, our nation has consistently maintained that the parents possess all fundamental rights to raise their children as they see fit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Porterville recognizes the fundamental importance of parental rights in nurturing the well-being and development of our children; and

WHEREAS, parents are the primary caregivers, protectors, and educators of their children, and their role is critical in shaping the future citizens of our community; and

WHEREAS, parental rights are constitutionally protected and deeply rooted in our society's values, affirming the rights of parents to make informed decisions about their children's education, health, and upbringing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Porterville recognizes and upholds the *Doctrine of Parental Rights*, which solidifies the commitment to safeguarding parents' authority to raise their children without interference from the State, as underscored by numerous landmark United States Supreme Court cases; and

WHEREAS, the City of Porterville affirms the principles set forth in the landmark US Supreme Court case *Pierce v Society of Sisters* (1925), wherein it was firmly established that "the fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in this Union repose excludes any general power of the State to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. The child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Porterville recognizes that the pivotal case of *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965) laid the foundation for acknowledging the right to privacy, a fundamental principle that extends to parents' inherent Rights, enabling them to make decisions for their children free from undue governmental interference; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has further demonstrated its unwavering support for parental autonomy through pivotal rulings, such as *Troxel v. Granville* (2000), *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972), and *Meyer v. Nebraska* (1923), each of which underscores the paramount significance of parental involvement in shaping their children's lives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Porterville understands that strong families are the foundation of a prosperous and harmonious community, fostering an environment of love, stability, and support for children; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to promote and protect the rights of parents to ensure they can exercise their responsibilities effectively and in the best interest of their children;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED our unwavering support for parental rights and the vital role of parents in our community. We acknowledge and affirm the following principles:

The Right to Raise and Educate: Parents have the right to raise, nurture, and educate their children according to their beliefs and values, respecting their cultural, religious, and ethical convictions.

The Right to Make Informed Decisions: Parents have the right to make informed decisions regarding their children's medical care, education, and extracurricular activities, guided by their understanding of what is in the best interest of their child.

The Right to Be Informed and Involved: Parents have the right to be fully informed and involved in their children's educational and extracurricular activities, as well as in any decision-making processes that may impact their children's well-being.

The Right to Privacy and Confidentiality: Parents have the right to expect that their family's privacy and confidentiality will be respected and protected by public and private institutions.

The Right to Advocate: Parents have the right to advocate for their children's needs and interests, ensuring that their voices are heard and considered in matters affecting their children.

The Right to Be Free from Discrimination: Parents have the right to be free from discrimination based on their parental status, family structure, or any other factors that do not affect their ability to care for and love their children.

The Right to Seek Redress: Parents have the right to seek legal redress if they believe their parental rights have been unjustly infringed upon.

By proclaiming this support for parental rights, the City of Porterville reaffirms its commitment to fostering a community where parents are empowered and respected in their essential role in raising the next generation of citizens. We encourage all residents, community organizations, and institutions to promote and safeguard parental rights, creating an environment that fosters the well-being and development of our children.

