

SUPPORT HB148

Alabama Parental Rights Constitutional Amendment

Builds on Prior Legislative Support

HB148 builds on parental rights protections in HB6 (2023 / Act 2023-555), which received strong support from members of the House Judiciary Committee.

This amendment places those protections in the Alabama Constitution.

What HB148 Does

Affirms parents' fundamental right to direct the **education, upbringing, care, and control** of their children.

Key points:

- Parents are **primary decision-makers**
- Protects authority over **education, upbringing, care, and control**
- Requires government to meet the **highest constitutional standard** before interfering

Why It Matters

Parental rights have been recognized for over a century, including in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*.

HB148 ensures these rights **cannot be weakened by future legislation**.

Constitutional Amendment Structure

Constitutions protect **fundamental rights**; statutes govern **how those rights are applied**.

“Constitutions protect the right; statutes govern how it works.”

Like the *Second Amendment to the United States Constitution*, HB148 establishes the **principle**, while existing family law and child-protection statutes remain enforceable.

Scope & Reassurances

- Applies **only to disputes between parents and the government**
- **Does NOT apply to custody disputes between parents**
- **Does NOT change child-protection laws**
- State retains authority in cases of **abuse, neglect, exploitation, or threats**

Impact

- ✓ Protects parental rights in the Constitution
- ✓ Maintains existing family law and child-protection authority
- ✓ Provides a clear standard for government action

House Judiciary Committee Members Who Supported HB6 (2023)

Hill • Wadsworth • Bedsole • Chestnut • Faulkner
McClammy • Pettus • Robbins • Robertson
Simpson • Starnes • Stringer • Tillman

Protect Families • Protect Parents • Protect Future Generations