



March 14, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

RE: Support for S.B. 1367, *Reasonable Independence for Kids*

Dear Governor Youngkin,

By way of introduction, our organization, the Parental Rights Foundation, and our parent organization, ParentalRights.org, have worked nationwide and in the Commonwealth of Virginia for the last 16 years to protect children by empowering parents. We were founded by Mike Farris (who founded Patrick Henry College and co-founded HSLDA) and are headquartered in Loudoun County.

In 2013, we worked with legislators and allied organizations across Virginia to draft and pass the legislation enshrining parental rights as a fundamental right in Virginia Code. That legislation was signed into law by Governor Bob McDonnell and is codified at Va. Code Ann. § 1-240.1.

On behalf of our thousands of supporters in Virginia, we worked this past legislative session with Senator Jill Vogel, the American Legislative Exchange Council, Independent Women's Network, Let Grow, and a multitude of organizations and parents from across the political spectrum on S.B. 1367, Reasonable Independence for Kids. We are pleased that this common-sense and bipartisan bill to protect children by empowering parents passed the Virginia legislature unanimously.

S.B. 1367 provides freedom to parents to let their children grow and thrive. It protects parental rights. It protects children and families from the trauma of an unnecessary child welfare investigation. And it will allow Virginia's Department of Social Services to focus attention on children who are truly in danger of abuse or neglect.

We respectfully ask that you sign S.B. 1367 into law. Your signature of S.B. 1367 into law will add Virginia to a growing number of states – including Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah – that have recently amended their state child neglect laws to protect innocent parents from facing

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child neglect investigations simply because a bystander or child welfare investigator disagrees with the parenting decision that a loving parent made for his or her child.

Thank you very much for your leadership of our Commonwealth, for your dedication for parental rights and protecting children, and for your consideration of our letter and S.B. 1367.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We can be reached via phone at 540-751-1200, or via email at will@parentalrights.org.

Very truly yours,



William A. Estrada, Esq.*
President
ParentalRights.org and the Parental Rights Foundation

**Licensed in the District of Columbia*

CC: The Honorable Winsome Earle-Sears, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia