



Resolution to support reestablishing Parental Rights and the strengthening of families.

**Spokane County Republican Central Committee
February 2, 2021**

Whereas, we as a party support the strengthening of families, further recognizing that Parental Rights should not be set aside; and

Whereas, Parental Rights refer to a parent’s rights to make important decisions and take certain actions on behalf of their child or childrenⁱ; and

Whereas, Parental Rights are meant to protect and ensure the wellbeing of a child.

Whereas, Parental Rights typically include the right to make decisions regarding fundamental matters for a child or children, such as education, religion and medical treatments.

Whereas, we acknowledge child abuse can be a factor and does exist in families, we continue to encourage supportive programs to help and protect children and families in order to educate and break these cycles of violence and abuse, in order to further strengthen our communities; and

Whereas, we recognize that medical science supports the claim that the human brain does not stop maturing until around 25 years of age;ⁱⁱ and

Whereas, 50% of all lifetime mental health conditions develop by the age of 14 and that 75% develop by the age of 24;ⁱⁱⁱ and

Whereas, Washington State first enacted the minor consent laws in 1969 (RCW 70.24.110) and the State has continued to expand teenage privacy rights since that time; and

Whereas, Washington State Law currently allows for minors age 13-18 to withhold health records from their parents;^{iv} and

Whereas, teen privacy rights have continued to expand so that teens don’t need to have parents’ permission for birth control, abortion, testing for sexually transmitted diseases or treatment for mental health and outpatient treatment for drug abuse^v; and

Whereas, if we are to create a level of trust between parents and agencies, we need to recognize that the majority of parents have it in everyone’s best interest to be involved in their teenager’s life’s decisions at all levels and at all times.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Spokane County Republican Central Committee Executive Board supports reestablishing Parental Rights in relation to their teenage children so that in most cases parents are to be included in all issues regarding the mental and or physical health of, and services provided to our youth, up to the age of 18.

ⁱ <https://www.legalmatch.com/law-library/article/what-are-parental-rights.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://mentalhealthdaily.com/2015/02/18/at-what-age-is-the-brain-fully-developed/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/10/half-of-all-mental-illness-begins-by-the-age-of-14/>

^{iv} <https://depts.washington.edu/uwhatc/PDF/guidelines/Minors%20Health%20Care%20Rights%20Washington%20State.pdf>

^v <https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/program/pit-presentation-kevin-black.pdf>