

PARENTAL RIGHTS

Words that Work



HEALTHY FAMILIES

Keep your points positive. People want to be *for* a good cause, not against one.

- Support *Strong, Healthy Families*.
- Protect *Parents' Right to Protect their Children*.
- Assert that *Parents know their children best*.

JUSTICE

People crave the validation of standing for justice, so invite them to stand *with* you in the fight.

- Join me to *support loving moms and dads*.
- We must *keep families together*.
- We must *prevent the destruction of the family*.

CARING FOR KIDS

Effective persuasive conversations require the speaker to know their audience and establish trust with them before logic and reason can be heard.

Lead every conversation with *compassion*.

- Express *concern*: No one loves your child more than you, their parent. No one knows their needs better. No one wants what is best for them more than you. We must protect the role of parents to care for their children, because every child deserves a champion who is always on their side.
- Express *sympathy*: sometimes tragedies happen, and the government needs to get involved. However, the exception should not define the rule. Government should never displace loving parents.
- Express *worth*: Refuse to cheapen what it means to be a mom or dad who sacrificially loves, provides, and advocates for their child. Simply put, parents are irreplaceable in a child's life.



PROTECTED BY LAW

Throughout human history, the right of parents to raise their children has been universally acknowledged. This common sense, constitutional right, coupled with parents' responsibility to provide for their children, is protected through modern law:

- ***Michigan's state laws protect parental rights:***
"It is the natural, fundamental right of parents... to determine and direct the care, teaching, and education of their children." MCL 380.10
- ***The US Supreme Court has consistently upheld parental rights for more than 100 years:***

"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." --Pierce v. Society of Sisters

Parents hold fundamental rights "in the companionship, care, custody, and management" of their children. --Stanley v. Illinois

"[T]his primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition." --Wisconsin v. Yoder

MOTIVATED BY FAITH

Scripture is clear that parents, not civil government, have been tasked by God with the responsibility to educate and train their children.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." --Deuteronomy 6:5-7

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." --Proverbs 22:6

Modern attacks on the Lord's calling to parents seek nothing less than to steal the very souls of our children. They further threaten God's design for family and society. Christian parents have a duty to faithfully obey God's Word above all else.