

HCS HJR 16 -- PROTECTION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

SPONSOR: Davis

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 6 to 5.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment guarantees a parent or legal guardian the right to care, educate, and raise his or her children without governmental hindrance unless there is a compelling governmental interest.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Unknown in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is necessary because the institution of the family, as a fundamental right of parents, is being undermined by our society.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Davis; Missouri Family Network; Concerned Women for America of Missouri; and Missouri Eagle Forum.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it raises severe concerns about the impact it will have on children who have been abused or neglected. The vague language of the bill is dangerous.

Testifying against the bill were Partnership for Children; Jay Wood, Missouri Kids First; and Missouri Council of School Administrators.