



HB18-1269

Thursday, March 29th @ 1:30p

House Judiciary Committee—Room #112

Statement of Support

Good afternoon Chairman Lee & members of the Committee, my name is Aaron Robertson. I'm the President of The Patriot League & I speak in that capacity to support a bill that is consistent with one of the fundamental principles that we exist to advance, namely, parental rights—we ask that you vote in favor of this bill.

HB18-1269 is entitled "Parent Notice For Student Safety & Protection" & states, *"It is the right and responsibility of parents to guide the education and upbringing of their children; an essential role of parents in ensuring the safety and quality of their children's education is to remain active, engaged, and fully informed about what is occurring in their children's classrooms and within the school environment; ensuring the safety of school children is one of the primary responsibilities of state and local government, law enforcement, and school communities; in order to ensure a safe school environment that is conducive to learning, students and parents must be assured that criminal behavior that is harmful to children is reported and dealt with appropriately and in a manner that is transparent to parents and the school community; and parents have a right to know about accusations that criminal justice agencies have made about school employees at their children's schools. Therefore, the General Assembly declares that it is appropriate to notify parents of school children when a school employee is charged with certain crimes that may put children at risk... The bill requires school districts, district charter*

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schools, institute charter schools, and boards of cooperative services (local education providers) to notify parents of students enrolled in a local education provider of charges brought against an employee or former employee, who has or had contact with students, if the charges are for one of the offenses that requires the denial, suspension, or revocation of a teacher license if the employee were a teacher. We conclude that this bill is consistent with the principle of parental rights which we hold to be essential for a healthy society.

We'd like you to know that our organization works with Catholic, Evangelical, Greek Eastern Orthodox, Mormon & Muslim religious leaders through our Pillar Project (www.pillarproject.com.) These leaders are African-American, Arabic, Brazilian, Hispanic, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Native American, Polish & Vietnamese among others & actively lead over 146,000 Colorado citizens from 41 Colorado cities & towns—we've made them aware of this proposed legislation. In closing—and with respect, I'd like to personally express my appreciation for your public service & I'd be happy to take any questions.

