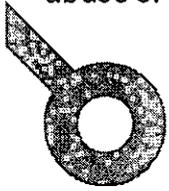
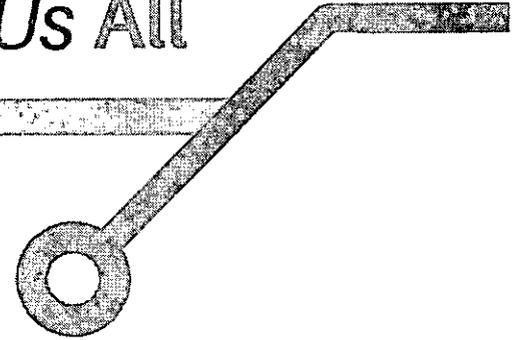


# PARENTAL RIGHTS

## *An Issue That Matters to Us All*

### 93.6% of Americans Agree:

“In general, parents have the constitutional right to make decisions for their children without government interference unless there is proof of abuse or neglect”[1].



### The Courts Are Not Protecting These Rights.

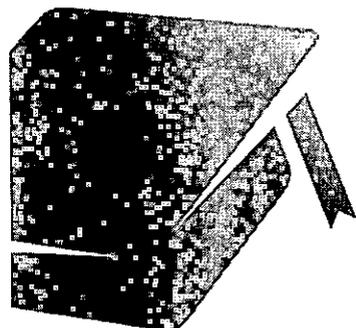
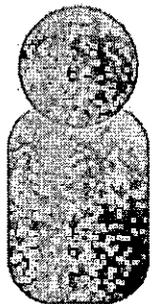
The liberty of parents to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children was once “established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition” (*Wisconsin v. Yoder*)[2].

Yet, though an overwhelming majority of Americans still agree with that tradition, the Court in *Troxel v. Granville* replaced the previous high level of protection with an ambiguous call for “some special weight”[3].



Every day, **families are broken apart** by state actors who wrongly assume they are able to make a better decision for a child than the parent can. Children removed from their parents suffer in such measurable outcomes as rates of teen pregnancy, criminal convictions, and adult poverty[4].

While **African American children** comprise 13.8% of the total child population[5], African American children comprise an estimated 23% of children in foster care[6]. In 2006, the U.S. Accountability Office attributed the “proportion of African American children in foster care” in part to “racial bias”[7].



The Ninth Circuit in *Fields v. Palmdale*[8] held “that the *Meyer-Pierce* right [of parents to direct the upbringing of their children] **does not extend beyond the threshold of the school door**”[9] and that “parents are possessed of *no constitutional right* to prevent the public schools from providing information on [any] subject to their students in any forum or manner they select.”  
(*emphasis added*)

*Continued on Back.*