

Indiana Family Institute

2025 Legislative Session Policy Briefs

Updated 3/14/25

- I. Legislation: [SB#143 - Parental Rights](#)**
- A. **Author(s):** Sen. Liz Brown (R-15), Sen. Scott Alexander (R-26), Sen. Brett Clark (R-24).
 - B. **Co-Authors:** Sen. Byrne, Sen. Gaskill, Sen. Johnson, Sen. Donato, Sen. Doriot, Sen. Buchanan, Sen. Tomes, Sen. Goode, Sen. Randolph, Sen. Maxwell, Sen. Garten, Sen. Rogers, Sen. Bohacek, Sen. Raatz, Sen. Buck.
 - C. **House Sponsor:** Rep. Shane Lindauer (R-63)
- II. Bill Status:**
- A. [Passed Senate on Third Reading: 44-5](#) (Nays: Sen. Alting, Sen. Freeman, Sen. Hunley, Sen. Yoder, Sen. Becker)
- III. Executive Summary:**
- A. SB#143:
 - 1. Provides that a governmental entity may not substantially burden certain parental rights unless the burden, as applied to the parent and the child, is required to advance a compelling governmental interest.
 - 2. Prohibits a governmental entity form:
 - a) Advising, directing, or coercing a child to withhold certain information from the child’s parent; or,
 - b) Denying a child’s parent access to certain information.
 - c) Allows a parent to bring an action against a governmental entity for certain violations and provides for certain relief.
 - d) Specifies that the parent of a child does not have a right to access certain medical care on behalf of the child if the child does not have an affirmative right of access to the medical care.
 - 3. Affected Indiana Code (IC): [IC 31-9](#); IC 31-4
- IV. Analysis:**
- A. [Senate Bill \(SB\) 143](#) (Brown, Ft. Wayne) is an important step forward for parental rights in Indiana, by providing legal resources for parents should their rights be violated by government entities, school and department of child services. Currently, the state of Indiana is more equipped to attack parents than parents are equipped to defend themselves from government and local entity overreach. Furthermore, SB 143 aims to clearly define the relationships between parents, children, and entities outside of the child’s homes. Attempting to join other states in the fight for parent’s rights and citing recent cases of school officials and government entities lying to, hiding information and ignoring parents of kids, this bill would codify into law that government entities may not substantially burden a parent’s fundamental right to direct the upbringing, religious instruction, education or healthcare of a child. It raises these rights to the highest level within law. It would force the government to prove their allegations within court rather than the rubber stamped removal of parental rights that is happening currently. Government should never be allowed to kidnap children away from parents or violate these basic parental rights when no legitimate abuse, or neglect has occurred. That is happening currently and it must stop.
- V. Conclusion:**
- A. Indiana Family Institute (IFI) supports SB 143 because; it protects Hoosier parents from government and agency overreach, promotes family decision making and the nuclear family, and distinguishes clear barriers between the family unit and government entities, schools and the department of child services.