



**Resolution to support Reestablishing Parental Rights, and the strengthening of Families.**

**Whereas** the Benton County Republican Party (BCRP) supports the strengthening of families and parental rights;

**Whereas** parental rights refer to a parent's rights to be informed regarding important decisions and actions taken on behalf of their minor child or children and allowing them to have input into those decisions and actions;

**Whereas** parental rights are meant to protect and ensure the wellbeing of a child as well as the relationship between parent and child;

**Whereas**, parental involvement with their children leads to lower rates of substance abuse and delinquent acts<sup>1</sup>;

**Whereas**, the increase in Washington State legislation expanding teen privacy rights severs the parent-child relationship at an extraordinarily volatile time for the child by allowing minors between the ages of 13-17 to withhold both mental and physical health information from their parents; and

**Whereas**, if Washington State seeks to create stronger families and repair familial bonds, encouraging trust between parents and children and parents and agencies, sharing information with parents must be a priority;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the BCRP supports reestablishing parental rights for their children in all issues regarding their mental and physical health by keeping responsible parents informed of important actions and decisions taken on behalf of their minor children and allowing them to have input into those decisions.

Done this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2022

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<sup>1</sup> Hayakawa M, Giovanelli A, Englund MM, Reynolds AJ. Not just academics: Paths of longitudinal effects from parent involvement to substance abuse in emerging adulthood. J Adolesc Health. 2016;58(4):433-439. doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2015.11.00