

Resolution of Support for the Citizen Action Defense Fund Litigation Opposing House Bill 1296 (2025)

Whereas, the Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) of the Republican County Parties of Benton, Grant, and Douglas Counties recognize the importance of protecting parental rights and transparency in education; and

Whereas, the Citizen Action Defense Fund has initiated litigation on behalf of Washington parents, school board members, and educators, asserting that House Bill 1296 (2025) is unconstitutional because it unlawfully strips parents of their right to know and limits their ability to make decisions regarding their children's education and welfare; and

Whereas, the process surrounding the creation of House Bill 1296 exemplifies government overreach, advancing a centralized educational system inconsistent with the principles of local control and parental authority; and

Whereas, the Inslee–Ferguson administration and its legislative allies have disregarded the voices of citizens and elected school board officials, establishing policies that undermine parental oversight and student safety; and

Whereas, Washington State Senate Majority Leader Jamie Pederson (D) stated, after the House Education Committee rejected an amendment by Republican Rep. Travis Couture would require districts to immediately notify parents if their child is a victim of sexual misconduct by a school employee, “If they are old enough to get pregnant, they’re old enough to make their own decisions about what happens with their bodies, and parents do not have the right to change that.”

Whereas, citizens and PCOs across Benton, Grant, and Douglas Counties have publicly declared their opposition to this intrusive and overreaching approach to education; and

Whereas, Grant County Republican Chairman Victor Lombardi has stated that the erosion of parents’ rights reflects an ideology that treats children as assets of the State, which is deeply troubling and unacceptable; and

Whereas, Benton County Republican Chairman Dave Comstock has noted that schools exist through parents’ tax dollars, yet state leadership under Superintendent Reykdal has advanced radical policies that have resulted in declining academic outcomes, loss of student safety, and increasing parental concern; and

Whereas, Douglas County Republican Chairman Dan Wheat has affirmed that half a million legally documented Washington voters called to end this educational overreach through their initiative signatures, yet state officials in Olympia have disregarded the will of the people;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Republican County Parties of Benton, Grant, and Douglas Counties express their full and unwavering support for the Plaintiffs represented by the Citizen Action Defense Fund in their legal challenge against House Bill 1296; and

Resolved, that these county organizations call upon all Republican County Parties throughout Washington State to join in rejecting House Bill 1296 and defending the fundamental rights of parents to guide the education and welfare of their children; and

Resolved, that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Citizen Action Defense Fund, the Washington State Republican Party, and other interested county organizations for their consideration and support.

Adopted by the Precinct Committee Officers of the Republican County Parties of Benton, Grant, and Douglas Counties finalized on November 6th, 2025. (Ink signatures on file)

David Comstock

David Comstock Chairman, Benton County Republican Party

Victor Lombardi

Victor Lombardi Chairman, Grant County Republican Party

Dan Wheat

Dan Wheat Chairman, Douglas County Republican Party