Don’t let a biased system determine a child’s future.

**Disproportionate Treatment by Race**
African-American parents see their parental rights taken away at a disproportionate rate compared to other parents. This is seen in the disproportionate number of Black children in foster care in the United States. The U.S. Accountability Office has attributed this phenomenon in part to **racial bias**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of Total Child Population</th>
<th>% of Substantiated Cases*</th>
<th>% of Children in Foster Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>61.2%</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>48.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American/Alaska Native</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Substantiated means a judge determined that evidence indicates abuse or neglect exists.


**The Problem: No Clear Standard**
Judges and the States are able to apply their own rules and biases to parental rights law because **there is no clear national standard**. The National Council on Disability says of the Supreme Court’s latest parental rights ruling, “[D]espite the conclusion that the substantive liberty interest of parents requires strict scrutiny of any government intervention into the family, Justice O’Connor’s plurality opinion in *Troxel* does not apply strict scrutiny.”


**The Solution**
The **Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives judges clear direction**. It states that: “The liberty of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children is a fundamental right,” and that “Neither the United States nor any State shall infringe this right without demonstrating that its governmental interest...is of the highest order and not otherwise served.”

**The People Agree**
According to a poll by Zogby Polling in 2010, **93.6% of all Americans agree with this statement**: “In general, parents have the constitutional right to make decisions for their children without government interference unless there is proof of abuse or neglect.”

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Protect **Children** by Empowering **Parents**
Through a **U.S. Parental Rights Amendment**

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