

March 20, 2009

Open Letter to Florida Attractions Association Members:

Did you know that the Florida Supreme Court stripped parents of the ability to sign waivers for their children to participate in activities such as field trips, youth sports, and amusement park rides? By taking away this right, countless youth activities are now in jeopardy. The following article from the [Orlando Sentinel](#) explains how the ruling affected Gatorland, an outdoor park in Central Florida.

In December, the Florida Supreme Court held that parents have no right to release a service provider from tort liability for injury to and on behalf of a child. The Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution vests parents with a constitutional right of privacy to raise their children as they see fit, short of the existence of a compelling state interest to justify the violation of a parent's fundamental right to raise his or her child. We want to restore the right of parents to choose what activities their child can participate in, and save businesses from having to make the choice between paying exorbitant insurance or closing up shop.

Recreational organizations and other activity and amusement companies are supporting legislation to give parents back the right to decide what activities they deem appropriate for their children. House Bill 363 and Senate Bill 886 are currently moving through the legislative process to protect the right of parents to make these decisions for their children, and the right of businesses to operate without overly burdensome government interference.

We need the support of all service and activity providers—small and large alike—to tell the Florida Legislature to pass this very important bill. On Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00am in House Office Building Room 12, this bill will go before the House Civil Justice and Courts Policy Committee. On Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:15am in Senate Office Building Room 110, this bill will go before the Senate Judiciary Committee. If you are able to make it, please call P3 Public Relations at (850)241-6773 to confirm and coordinate.

If you are unable to make it, you can still show your support by calling your local legislator, or Senator Constantine, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee at (850)487-5050, or Representative Thompson, Chairman of the Civil Justice and Courts Policy Committee at (850)488-1541. Lastly, you can show your support by contacting the House and Senate sponsors of this legislation, who are working hard to restore parental rights and safeguard recreational activities. Representative Horner can be reached at (850)488-8992 and Senator Oelrich can be reached at (850)487-5020.

Thank you for your support and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

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