HOUSE FILE 819
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 714)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 25, 2021)

[= New Language by the House

* = Language Stricken by the House

A BILL FOR

An Act relating to fundamental parental rights.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. NEW SECTION. **597A.1 Fundamental parental rights.**

[1. The right to direct the care and custody of a] parent's child is a parent's fundamental right.

2. State action infringing on this fundamental right shall be subject to strict scrutiny and shall be narrowly tailored to serve a compelling state interest.

3. [Marital] status shall not diminish this fundamental right, render a parent unfit, or establish a compelling state interest.

4. A parent is presumed to be a fit parent. This presumption may be overcome only by clear and convincing evidence.