



Reasonable Childhood Independence and Free Range Parenting Law Endorsements

"We believe that parents have the best sense of how to teach responsibility to their children."

- Utah Governor Gary Herbert, [The Hill](#)

"This is wonderful news; could be a turning point in America's long slide into over-supervision of kids."

- NYU Professor Jonathan Haidt, author of *The Righteous Mind*, [Huffpost](#)

"Kids who avoid fearful situations don't have the opportunity to face their fears and don't learn that their fears are manageable."

- Dr. Stephen Whiteside, Mayo Clinic Pediatric Psychologist, [ScienceDaily](#)

"This bill is exactly right."

- Meghan Leahy, Washington Post Parenting Columnist, [NPR](#)

"Vague statutes that criminalize child 'neglect' or 'endangerment' undermine the social legitimacy of parental autonomy. And they ignore the reality that almost every decision a parent makes involves risks. Let your child ride a bike to school, or strap her into a car for the trip? Which child is more at risk, the sedentary one playing video games and risking obesity, or the one riding a bike?"

- George Will, [The Oregonian](#)

The legislative approval of "free-range parenting" serves as a symbolic reminder that children deserve some degree of autonomy and that they learn best through exploration. The essence of "free-range parenting" is to create space for such exploration and learning to occur. The new law also emphasizes the need to de-stigmatize different parenting methods and to reinforce that parenting should be done on purpose and with purpose. Good parenting leads to stronger children, better communities and a healthier Utah.

- Editorial Board, [Deseret News](#)

"Nevada lawmakers should follow the lead of our neighbors to the east and pass their own version of the Free-Range Kids Bill."

- Editorial Board, [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#)

"It's frustrating to think we need to pass new laws to save traditional parent-child relationships. But Utah's first-in-the-nation 'free-range children' law makes a strong case for that kind of drastic action."

- Editorial Board, [The Orange County Register](#)

"It's hard to know when to allow your child additional freedoms, but we should err on the side of parents' judgment."

- Brian O'Neill, [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

"There's value in learning independence, experiencing free play unfettered from the constraints of organized sports, and existing outside among others in a world where humans are increasingly tethered to devices that connect us all but steal our attention. And there's value in letting caring, healthy and responsible families operate in their own ways, free from judgment." - Don Smith, [West Virginia-Herald Dispatch](#)

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