

LET OUR KIDS PLAY!

THE PROBLEM

The government has been slowly turning “play time” into “crime time” for kids and parents all across Georgia. Kids need the freedom to play being independent and parents need to know that they can support them without committing a crime.

Unfortunately, this government overreach has an even greater impact on lower income families and communities of color. These parents often find themselves on the wrong side of the law simply by allowing their children to go outside and play.



That's wrong.



More importantly, there are far more important issues facing families and much better ways to use taxpayer resources.

Together we can fix this . . .

. . . by re-establishing the balance between the freedom to be a kid and the responsibility of a parent, while still protecting children.

Our bill makes it clear that **kids and parents have more flexibility in doing every day things without fear of being prosecuted for neglect.** We can do that by specifically giving kids and parents the right to:



1. Travel to and from school, including walking, running, or bicycling;
2. Travel to and from nearby commercial or recreational facilities;
3. Engage in outdoor play;
4. Be home alone for a reasonable amount of time ;
5. Remain for less than fifteen (15) minutes in a vehicle if the temperature inside the vehicle is not or will not become dangerously hot or cold; and
6. Engage in a similar independent activity.

HB 20-XXXX

LETS OUR KIDS PLAY!



HB 20-XXXX protects kids and parents but still lets them make these family decisions and determine when their child is “of sufficient maturity, physical condition, and mental abilities to avoid substantial risk of physical harm.”



HB 20-XXXX clarifies that neglect is the denial of “necessary” care to a child and creating an environment that is obviously injurious to his or her welfare. This tightened definition of neglect comports with the public’s understanding that the state should not intervene in family life unless the parent’s actions or omissions cause a serious risk of harm to the child that is obvious to a reasonable parent. Current law allows authorities to label a parent a child neglecter based on their own moral judgments without evidence of the parent’s endangering a child’s health or safety.

