

**WHEREAS:** the City of Porterville recognizes the fundamental and inalienable rights of parents to raise, nurture, and educate their children according to their own beliefs, values, and traditions; and

**WHEREAS:** parental rights are deeply rooted in the Constitution and have been repeatedly affirmed by the United States Supreme Court, including in landmark cases such as *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* (1925), *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972), *Troxel v. Granville* (2000), and *Meyer v. Nebraska* (1923), which have upheld the principle that the child is not the mere creature of the state, but rather, parents hold the primary responsibility in their upbringing; and

**WHEREAS:** parents are the first and most important teachers, mentors, and protectors of their children, shaping the future of our community through their guidance, love, and leadership; and

**WHEREAS:** the City of Porterville values strong families as the foundation of a prosperous and harmonious society and recognizes that the preservation of parental rights is essential to the well-being of children and the strength of the community; and

**WHEREAS:** the right of parents to make decisions regarding their children's education, healthcare, and general welfare is paramount and must be protected from undue governmental interference; and

**WHEREAS:** the City of Porterville acknowledges the contributions of parents and guardians who dedicate their time, energy, and resources to ensuring their children's success, fostering strong moral values, and instilling a sense of civic responsibility; and

**WHEREAS:** in recognition of the vital role parents play in the lives of their children and the broader community, it is fitting that the City of Porterville set aside the month of April to celebrate and reaffirm parental rights;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG MEISTER,** Mayor of the City of Porterville, on behalf of the Porterville City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2025 as

**"PARENTAL RIGHTS MONTH"**

in the City of Porterville, and call upon all residents, community leaders, educators, and institutions to join in recognizing, honoring, and defending the vital role of parents in shaping the future of our great city.

**PROCLAIMED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2025.

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