

The *E.D. v. Noblesville School District* Case

Case Name: *E.D. v. Noblesville School District*

Case Action: Oral argument heard at the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit on October 29th, 2024

Significance: Every student has the right to speak about important issues.



Background:

E.D. is a student at Noblesville High School in Indiana. In August of 2021, she founded a pro-life club at her school. She was excited to start this chapter to “educate [her] peers on the issue of abortion and empower [her] peers in a local community with pregnancy-related items.” E.D. followed all the requirements to start Noblesville Students for Life as a student interest group. Once the club was recognized, E.D. prepared flyers to advertise a meeting. They included photographs of students holding signs in front of the U.S. Supreme Court reading, “I Reject Abortion,” “Defund Planned Parenthood,” and “I Am the Pro-Life Generation.” However, school officials told her she could not post them because they were too “political.” After E.D. met with staff members to get approval for the flyer, the principal derecognized the group. On behalf of E.D., attorneys with Charitable Allies filed a lawsuit to protect free speech for her and all students. After a district court ruled against E.D., Charitable Allies and Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit,

Key Points

- This is not just about a flyer; it’s about a public school telling a high schooler that she can’t express a message important to her.
- Students don’t forfeit their free speech when they walk into the school building.
- All student groups should have the equal right to share their views on important topics.

Key Facts

- Noblesville High School officials told E.D. that she could not put up pro-life flyers that had photos on them because the flyers could not be “political.”
- All students have the right to express their opinions on important topics without fear of being silenced by school officials because of their viewpoints.

The Bottom Line: All student groups have the equal right to express their views without being silenced.