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## **Gubernatorial Candidate Jake Merrick Condemns Government Overreach in Oklahoma Parental Rights Case**

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The people of Oklahoma face a critical question: Do parents have the unalienable right to decide the best medical treatment for their children, or can the state override those rights without due process?

A recent case at OU Children’s Hospital has sparked outrage statewide. A mother was forced to admit her 17-year-old high-functioning autistic son for a blood transfusion and chemotherapy against her wishes. Over a year ago, the mother halted her son’s chemotherapy due to its adverse effects, choosing instead natural treatments under a naturopathic doctor’s care. She reported improvements in her son’s health and cognitive function.

Following a referral from an OU Children’s oncologist—who had not seen the boy in over a year—the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) ordered the mother to return to OU Children’s Hospital or risk losing custody. Fearing for her son, she complied, only to see the state take full custody, administer a blood transfusion, and restart chemotherapy—all without her consent or a court hearing.

Jake Merrick, candidate for Governor of Oklahoma, was notified by a close family friend that the mother had been ordered to take her son to the hospital against her will. He met the mother at the hospital and reported the details on social media that night.

*“This case is a stark violation of parental rights and due process,” said Merrick. “No family should face such egregious government overreach. As governor, I will fight to protect Oklahomans’ God-given rights and ensure our courts and agencies respect the Constitution.”*

The incident, which has sparked nationwide outrage following Merrick’s viral post, raises troubling questions: Why were these procedures rushed on a Friday without medical urgency? Why was the mother’s authority stripped without a jury trial?

Merrick is calling for immediate reforms to Oklahoma’s court system and DHS to prevent such abuses.

*“As your governor, I will champion legislation to safeguard parental rights, strengthen due process, and hold agencies accountable,” Merrick added. “Oklahomans deserve leaders who prioritize people over bureaucracy and principle over politics.”*

Merrick urges citizens to join the fight against government overreach by supporting his campaign at [JakeMerrickForGovernor.com](http://JakeMerrickForGovernor.com) and attending one of many public meetings. Together, we can ensure Oklahoma remains a state where families are free to make decisions without fear of unjust state intervention.

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### **About Jake Merrick**

Jake Merrick is a candidate for Governor of Oklahoma, committed to defending individual liberties, reforming government agencies, and putting Oklahomans first. Learn more at [www.JakeMerrickForGovernor.com](http://www.JakeMerrickForGovernor.com).