### Declaration of Dependence (1776)

The child labor movement used the equality rhetoric of the founding era to support their argument.

### Movement for tax-supported education

A main argument of child labor activists was children should be in school.

### Muller v. Oregon

If courts only approved of business regulation if it was deemed necessary for the common good of a protected class of people, children are helpless and need protection from the government.

By declaring dependence, rather than independence, activists are using the equality theme of the original Declaration, but using it to declare children are inherently dependent on adults for protection from abuses.