

2-23-09

Public Hearing: HB5691, An Act Concerning Postsecondary Tuition Assistance and Special Need Subsidies for Adopted Children

Date of Hearing: February 24, 2009

Dear Committee Chairs and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Beatrice Sullivan. I reside in the town of Bloomfield and I am a single adopted parent of a seventeen year old black male. I adopted him when he was six years old and I was well over forty. He was adopted through the State of CT Department of Children and Families.

I have always loved children and wanted to provide a good home for one especially a black male. I have friends who are Social Workers and had heard many stories about black children not being adopted especially males. He is my only child and I have tried to be both mother and father to him. It has been very challenging but we seem to get through the challenges. I have tried to provide the summer camp experiences and music lessons for him. As well as other activities that I feel will help him grow. I also have him involved in community service project. I want him to be a well rounded young man.

My concern is now that he is a year away from going to college or a post secondary school. I will soon be living on my pension. I know it won't be enough to keep our home and put him through college or a post secondary vocational or occupation school. He has a hard time focusing and staying on task at times. He is a special needs child who will need assistance well over the age of eighteen. We all know that a High School education is not enough for anyone to survive in this world.

I like some many parents need all the assistance that we can get in order to provide the necessities of life to enable our children to become productive citizens and be able to give back to society what has been given to them. I am asking that you support HB5691 to help us Foster and Adoptive parents continue to be able to give our children what they need to become successful adults.

I also think that if this bill is passed that the State of Connecticut would have more families who would give a child a permanent home. I know that I wanted to adopt another child so that my son would not be an only child, but could not afford to do so, even with the subsidy that is provided. Today that subsidy does not even cover the monthly grocery bill.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter in support of HB5691.

Beatrice F. Sullivan
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