

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

Date of Hearing: February 24, 2009

Good Afternoon Committee Chairs and Members of the HED Committee, my name is Ivy Farinella. I reside in the town of South Windsor and I am an adoptive parent of a child I adopted in November of 2004 as well as a licensed foster home since 2001

I am here today to testify on House/Senate Bill HB5691, An Act Concerning Postsecondary Tuition Assistance and Special Need Subsidies for Adopted Children.

I am in full support of this bill.

- House/Senate Bill HB 5691 will help children adopted before 2005 go to college and actualize their full intellectual potential. I adopted my daughter a few months before the legislature passed tuition assistance for children adopted through DCF. Often children in the system have many obstacles to overcome due to abuse & neglect, which necessitates their placement to begin with. I have enormous respect & empathy for the work that many of these children & their foster & adopted families do to heal old wounds and overcome and compensate enormous difficulties
- I have not forgotten one foster child that has come through my doors and many of them stay in touch with me even though they have aged out of the system. I will continue to advocate for them and offer encouragement and care.
- These children deserve a bright future, with attainable goals, and besides love and a family, education is by far one of the most important building blocks in their foundation. I feel the passage of this bill is the right & equitable thing to do for these children, their families and society.

In closing I want to thank all of you on this committee for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
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