

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

February 24, 2009:

Good Afternoon Committee Chairs and Members of the Committee, my name is Tracy Rolfe. I reside in the town of East Lyme and I am an adoptive parent of two children (siblings). I am writing today in regard to House Bill 5691 An Act Concerning Postsecondary Tuition Assistance and Special Needs Subsidies for Adopted Children. I am writing today in support of House Bill 5691.

I have had my children since they were one and two years old. They are now fourteen and sixteen and beautiful young adults. My daughter, now 14, would like to go to drama school to be an actress and my son, now 16, would like to go to college to be a physician. They are both very talented young individuals. My son is also a very promising musician, as he currently plays four instruments (saxophone, guitar, piano and harmonica.)

They are the youngest of my four children. We are a normal working middle classed family. My two oldest children (as well as myself) are in college. We do not receive any financial support to do so, so we are all on the 'payment plans'.

I am asking that you please support this bill. A college education is one of the most important things you can offer to a child who originally came from a broken impoverished home. Supporting this bill will ensure that the ones who were left behind after the original bill passed will also have the wonderful opportunity to attend college.

Me and my son have been closely watching what happens and wish we could be there so you can see his big blue eyes widen as he talks about going to college. I worry every day that I will not be able to make this a reality for him.

Please help us help our children - I know that I am not the only parent who loses sleep over the cost of the college education and how we are going to manage it. In fact I know many other foster gone adoptive parents who have adopted more than one child and who are wondering the same... It seems so unfair that as hard working middle-classed parents, we do not qualify for any assistance whatsoever.

Please please please pass this bill, it would mean the world to adoptive parents, their children and to my son, Damion.

Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to voice (write) my opinion and for taking the time to consider this bill. I know this is a huge commitment on your part but in the long run I feel it will be such a wise and wonderful investment. These children will end up responsible adults who contribute to their communities.

Sincerely,

Tracy Rolfe, Adoptive Parent
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