

RE: Raised Billed HB: 5313: An Act Concerning Visitation By Grandparents

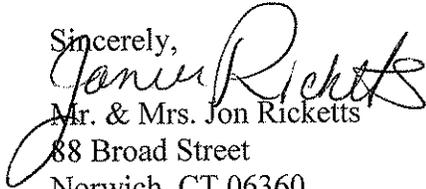
As a parent of five children ages ranging from five years of age to ten years of age, I cannot imagine life without my parents or in-laws. My children have a privileged of seeing their Noni every day. There is a special bond that is irreplaceable. Every year they look forward to picking blueberries then counting them out into one cup bags. It has turned into a friendly competition between the children because she takes them one at a time and they have this special routine. They know they can count on Noni, they feel a special with her, a feeling that only a grandparent can give. My children are also blessed with a Grandma and Grandpop that do not live as close and see on special occasions and get special sleepover nights. My children talk to and about their Grandmom and Grandpop all the time. The love they have for each other is amazing. The relationship where they will say things like, "I only like Grandmom's eggs" or Grandmom let us have a cookie after breakfast. When my children leave for a visit they will bring all their special toys, books, and photographs to share with them during quiet time. Even though my children do not see their Grandmom and Grandpop daily, weekly, or monthly they have a bond that amazes both my husband and my self. My oldest son is the only boy of all our nieces and they are considerably younger. At family functions my ten year old will sit and talk with my father for hours on end. From sport, nature, to just sitting with him quietly. They especially have a wonderful bond that will last forever. My second pregnancy was a multiple birth and my Dad often would take Kirk for special trips or sit and play trains for as long as Kirk wanted to.

Seeing the relationship between our parents and our children makes my heart swell. It is a time where there are no pressures, or concerns about schooling. It is a place to relax and enjoy the love they have to give. In the end they will return that love when our parents are older and need their smile and conversation.

When my son was born my Dad put in words what I think every Grandparent feels when they have a grandchildren. He said, "Being a Grandparent is much more fun. Don't get me wrong, I love you and loved raising you, but this is special." He went on to say how he doesn't have to worry about him, how he can just play and simply enjoy him. This goes both ways, the children can be with their Grandparents and just have it be simple.

When I watch my children with their Grandparents it takes me back to my relationship with my Grandmother and Grandfather. It was so very special it is difficult to put into words. All children are blessed to have relationships with their Grandparents, and grandchildren have a right to have a relationship with their grandparents.

Sincerely,

  
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