

HB 6453 – An act concerning visitation by grandparents

I am Suzanne Wallace, from The Child and Family Guidance Center in Bridgeport. I run the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program funded by the Southwestern CT. Area on Agency. I represent about 160 grandparents, most are raising their grandchildren, but some are still trying to gain visitation.

Visitation rights for grandparents are a must as grandchildren need to spend time with the grandparents who have been in their lives and now for a reason not clear to them they are being denied the right to visit their grandparents.

Grandchildren have a special relationship with their grandparents. Unfortunately, here in CT, not just has the grandchild been denied access to grandparents, but sometimes they have been told derogatory things about their grandparents – spoken from parents that seem to have a vendetta, or other agenda towards the grandparent.

Also, some grandparents have spent sizable amounts of money trying to gain visitation of the grandchildren they previously raised... while the parents were busy doing other things... They have been lifesavers for these children and now they no longer can spend time with them.

Please follow through this year and pass HB 6453 – An Act Concerning Grandparents' Visitation Rights

Thank you!